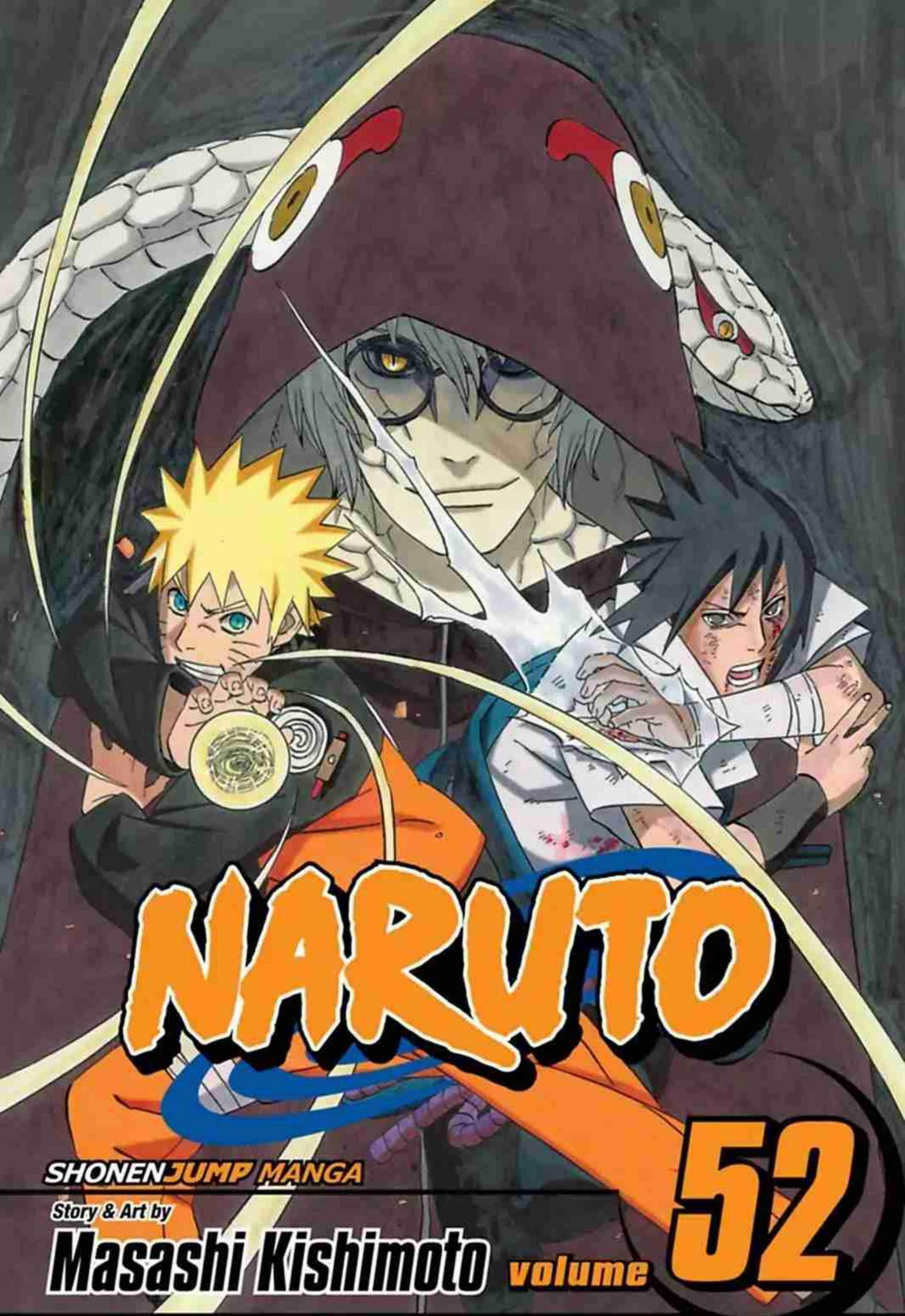
NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 52

岸本斉史

One member of my family is our pet cat Shû-san. He's quite elderly, so he can't get around much. In fact, he sleeps most of the time. He's always asleep, even during the daytime, but it must get too bright, because he'll cleverly cover both eyes with his arm. That gesture is just so cool.

*—Masashi Kishimoto, 2010*

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

**NARUTO VOL. 52**
**SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition**
This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in SHONEN JUMP #95–98. Artwork in the magazine may have been slightly altered from that presented here.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

Translation/Mari Morimoto
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**PARENTAL ADVISORY**
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

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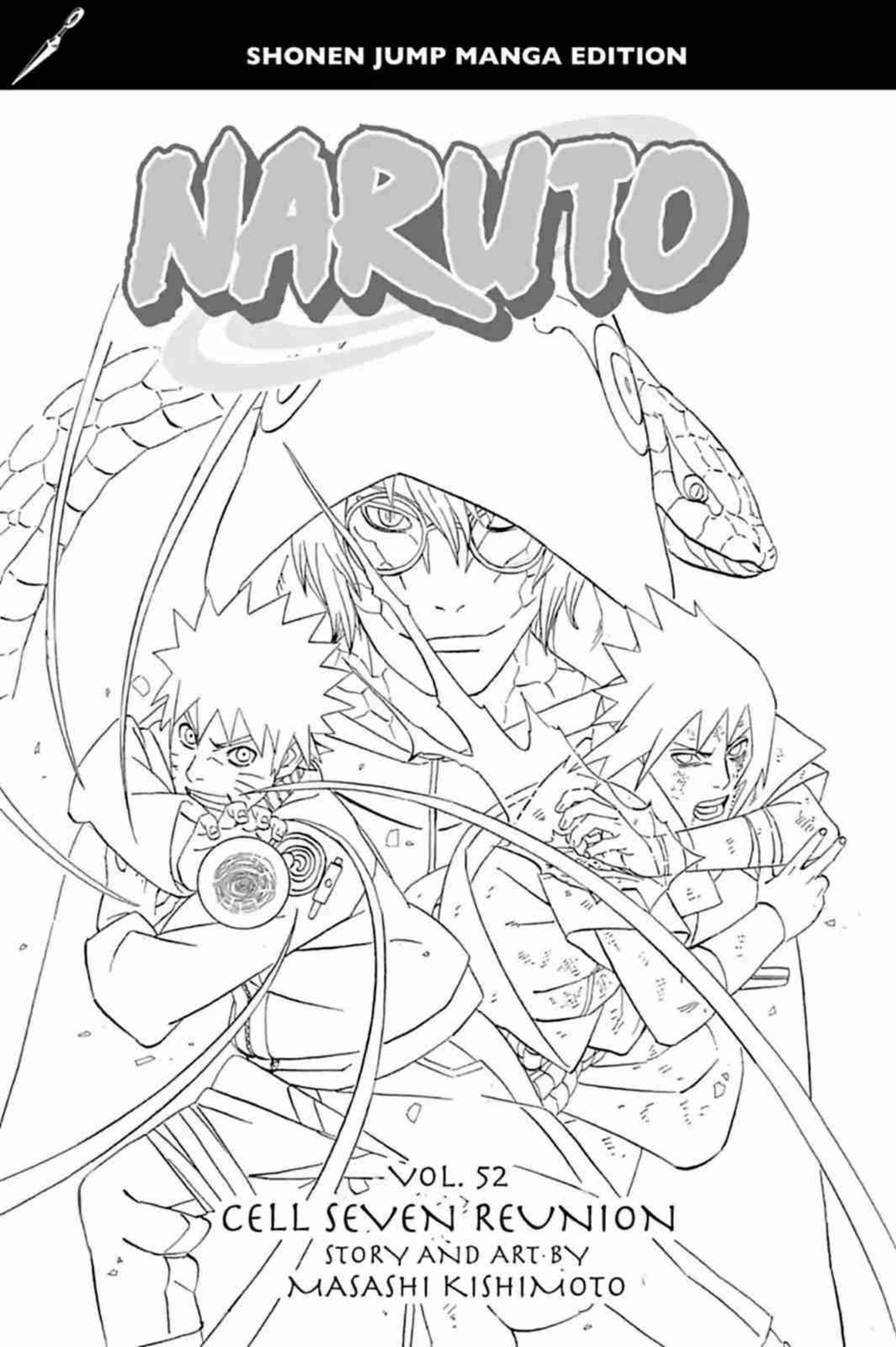
www.shonenjump.com

SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION




VOL. 52

# CELL SEVEN REUNION

STORY AND ART BY

MASASHI KISHIMOTO

# CHARACTERS

Naruto ナルト

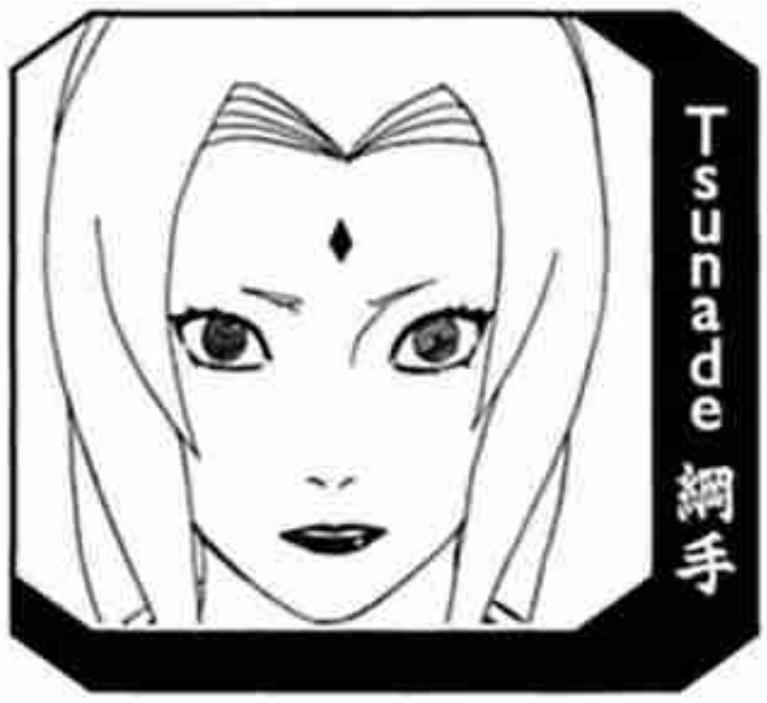
Sasuke サスケ

Kakashi カカシ

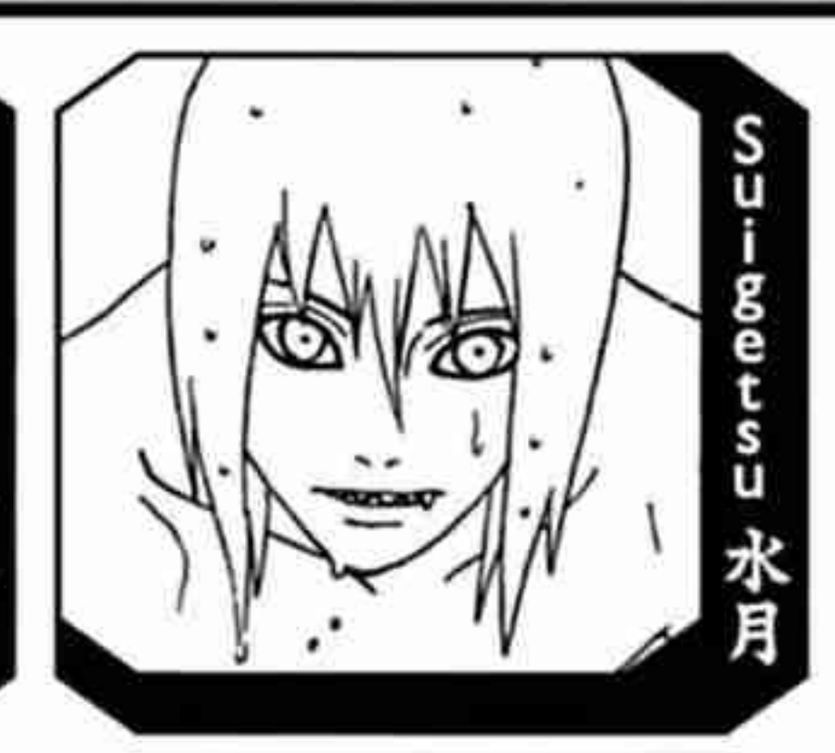
Sakura サクラ

Sai サイ

Yamato ヤマト


Tsunade 綱手

Jiraiya 自来也



## THE STORY SO FAR...

Naruto, the biggest troublemaker at the Ninja Academy in the Village of Konohagakure, finally becomes a ninja. Along with his classmates Sasuke and Sakura, he grows and matures during countless trials and battles. Sasuke, unable to give up his quest for vengeance, leaves Konohagakure to seek the renegade ninja Orochimaru, from whom he hopes to gain immense power.

In the years that pass, Naruto engages in fierce battles against the Tailed Beast-targeting Akatsuki. Elsewhere, after winning the heroic battle against Itachi and learning his older brother's true intentions, Sasuke allies with the Akatsuki organization and sets out to destroy Konoha.

Upon Madara's declaration of war, each shinobi village leader prepares to form an Allied Shinobi Force. Meanwhile, Sasuke finally gets to defeat one of his enemies; Danzo falls at his hands. Sakura tries to stop the vengeance-obsessed Sasuke, but he turns his murderous intentions on her… Just then, Kakashi comes to the rescue!

# NARUTO

VOL. 52
CELL SEVEN REUNION

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# Number 484: Cell-Seven Reunion!!

...CRY WITH SUCH A SAD FACE IN FRONT OF ME...!

PLIP...

PLIP...

!

PUT AWAY THAT EYE, INFERIOR SHINOBI! YOU ARE NOT UCHIHA!!
KI

SHOOM

WHAT IF SASUKE WERE TO ATTACK KONOHA? WHAT WOULD YOU DO THEN?

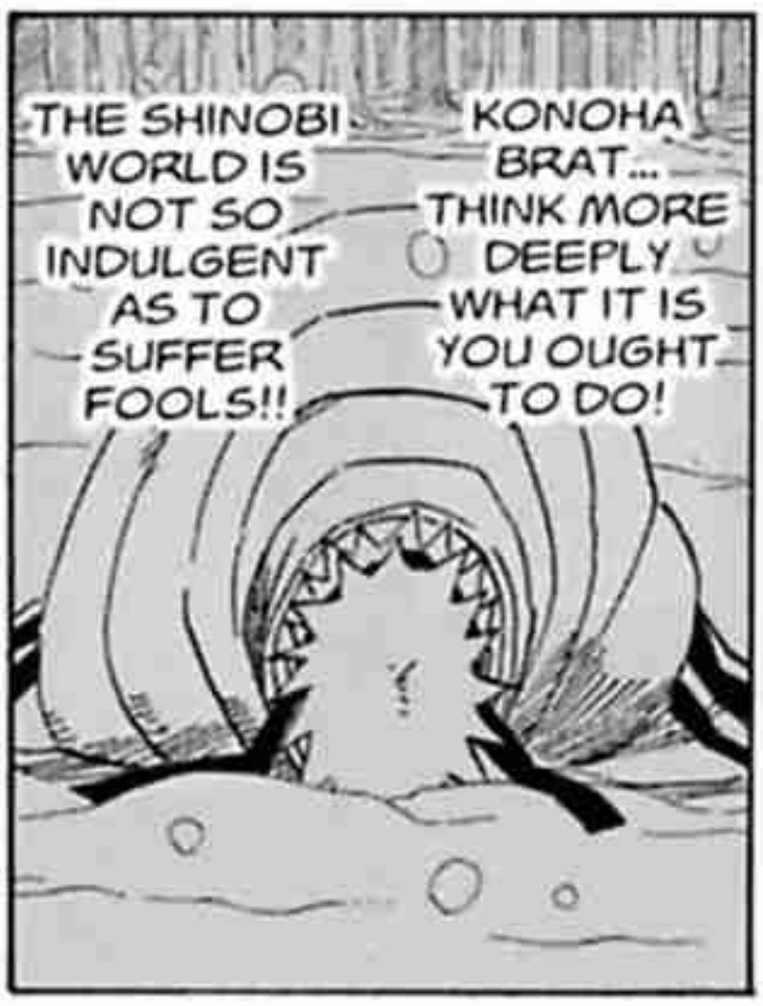
BUT WHAT IF IT DOESN'T GO THE WAY YOU WANT?
YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO TAKE SASUKE BACK TO KONOHA.

...

EVEN KILL HIM, IF NEED BE...?

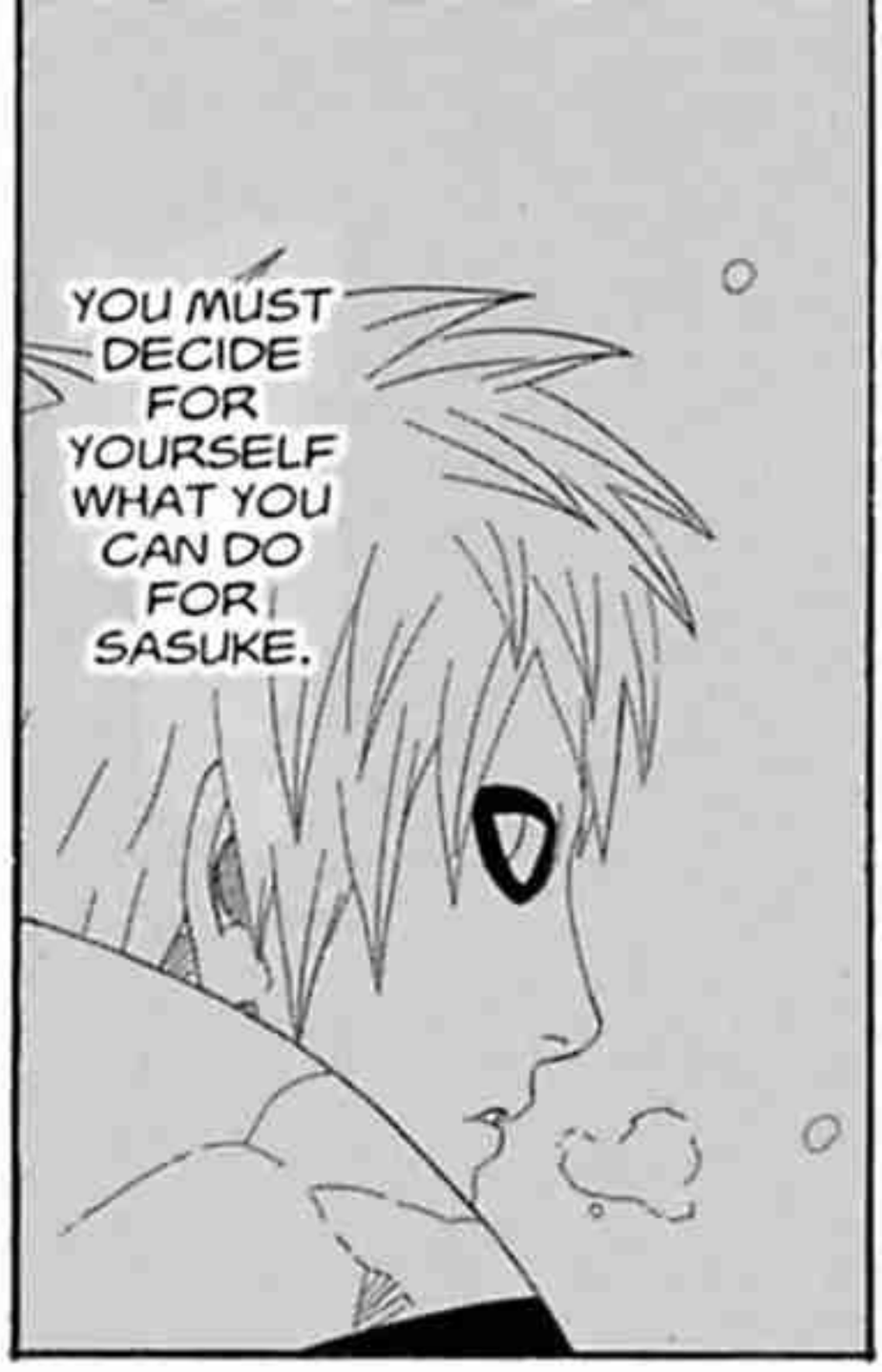
WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO STOP HIM?

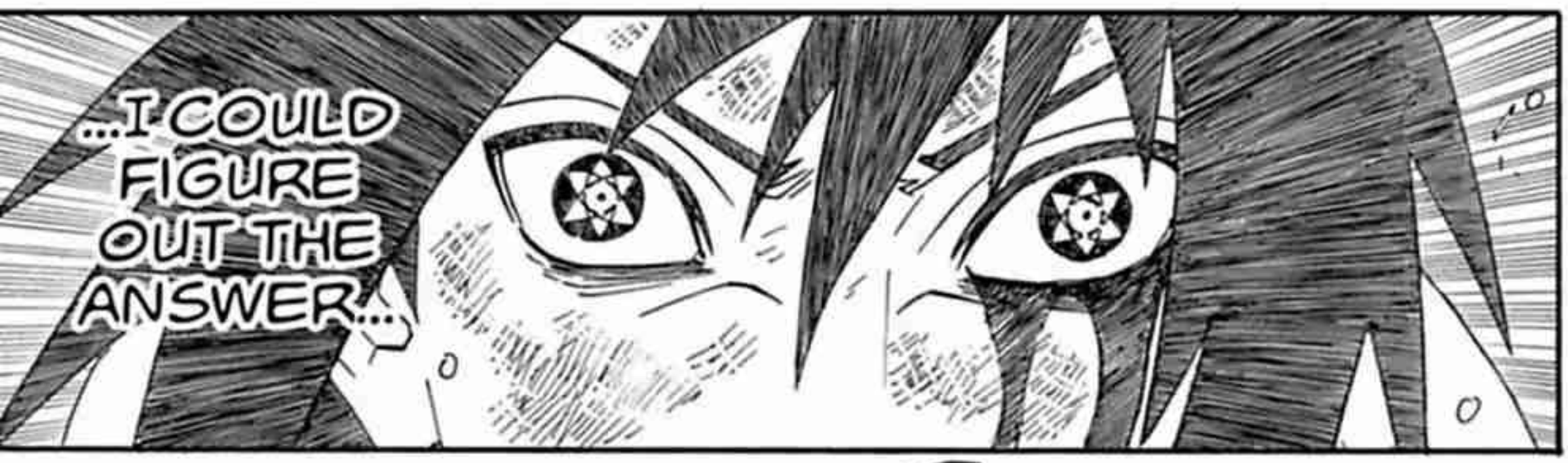
SASUKE IS STILL A BLANK CANVAS. HE CAN EASILY BE DYED ANY COLOR.



IF I COULD JUST SEE HIM...

...


YOU MUST DECIDE FOR YOURSELF WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR SASUKE.


...I COULD FIGURE OUT THE ANSWER...

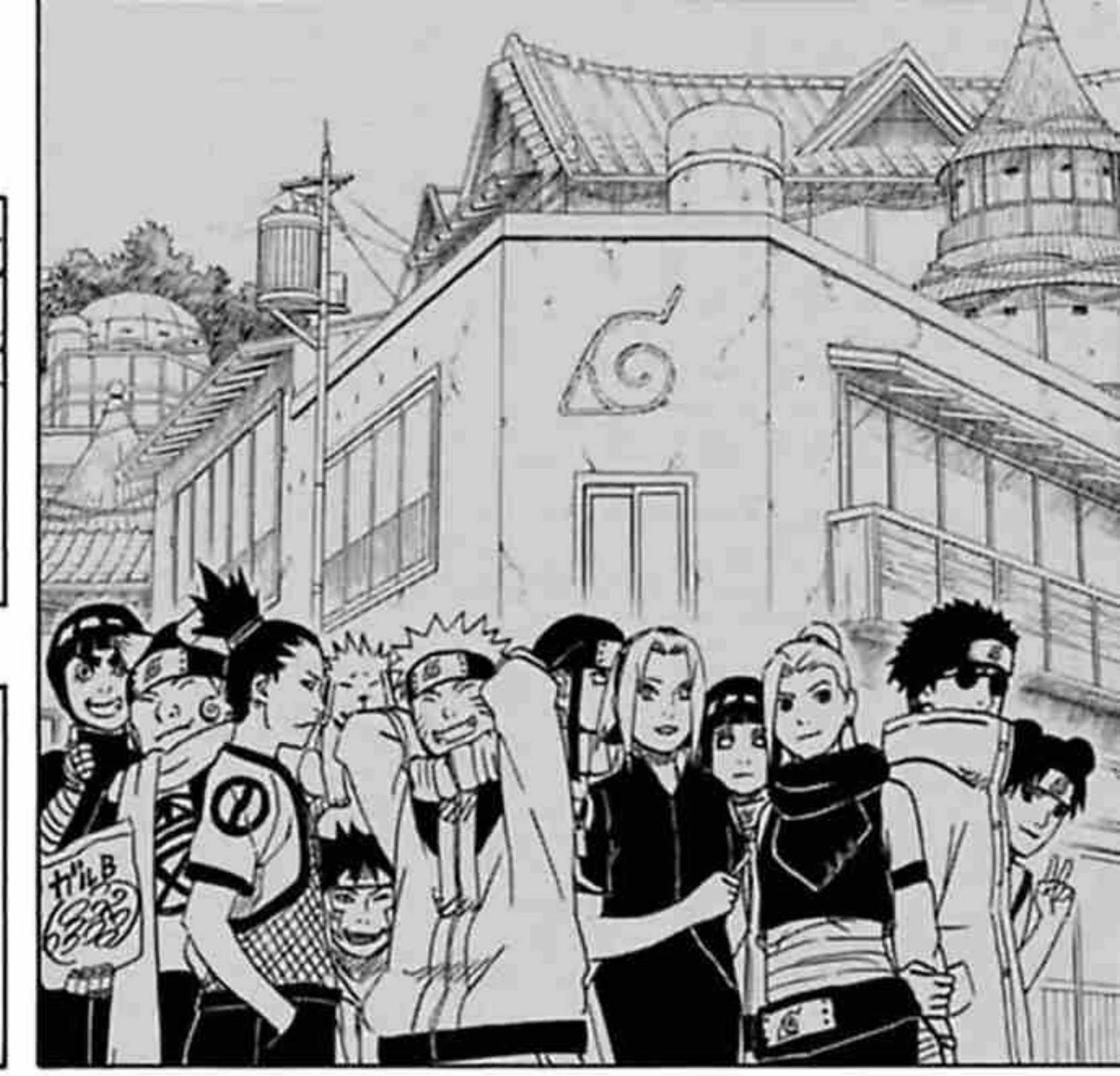
WAP

BOO
HUF
HUF
...
IF I HADN'T BLOWN IT AWAY WITH THE MANGEKYO, I WOULD HAVE BEEN DONE IN, FOR SURE...
SO FAST...

READ THIS WAY
YOU OUGHT TO BE GRATEFUL FOR THE POWER OF THE UCHIHA.
YOU WERE SAVED... BY THE ABILITIES OF THAT EYE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... NOT UCHIHA BUT ACHIEVED MANGEKYO...
IS THAT THE SUSANO'O...?
LOOK DEEP INSIDE YOUR HEART, ONE MORE TIME...
MORE THAN JUST HATRED.
SASUKE ...
...MORE THAN JUST YOUR CLAN IS IN YOU.
...I THINK YOU KNOW THE TRUTH.
...
STILL ON THAT TRACK...?

...

YOU'RE ALL... LAUGH-ING...



LAUGHING LIKE FOOLS, ALL TOGETHER, COMPLETELY IGNORANT!!
YOU'RE LAUGHING, AT THE COST OF ITACHI'S LIFE!!

...!

!

WOOO

RRRR

I WANT TO CHANGE THEM TO SHRIEKS AND WAILS!!

AND YOUR VOICES SOUND LIKE THEY ARE FILLED WITH CONTEMPT AND JEERING TO ME!!

GAWR

SWOOOO...

...MY SIGHT!!

WRRRRR

TAK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?!

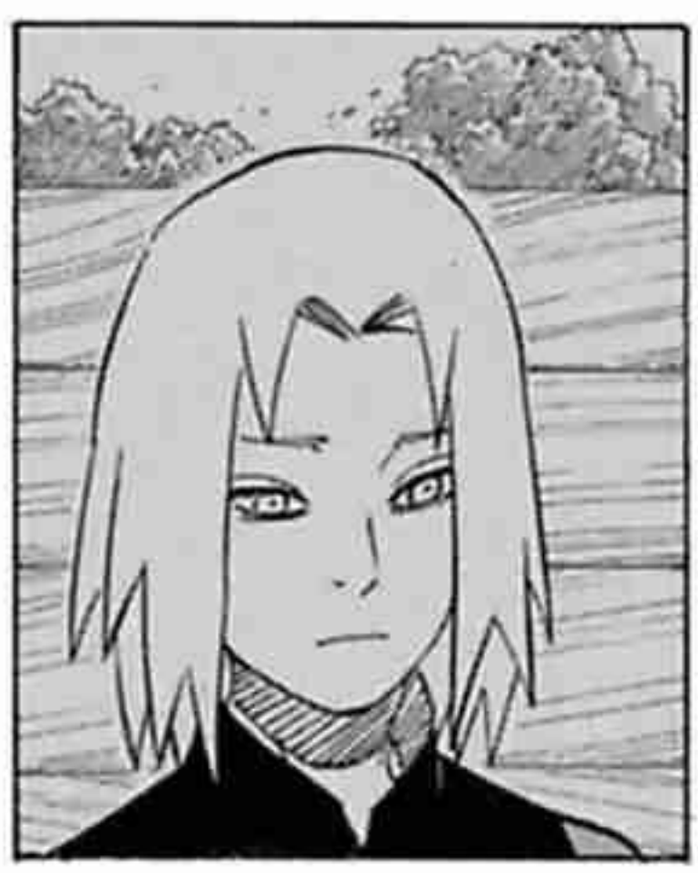
!

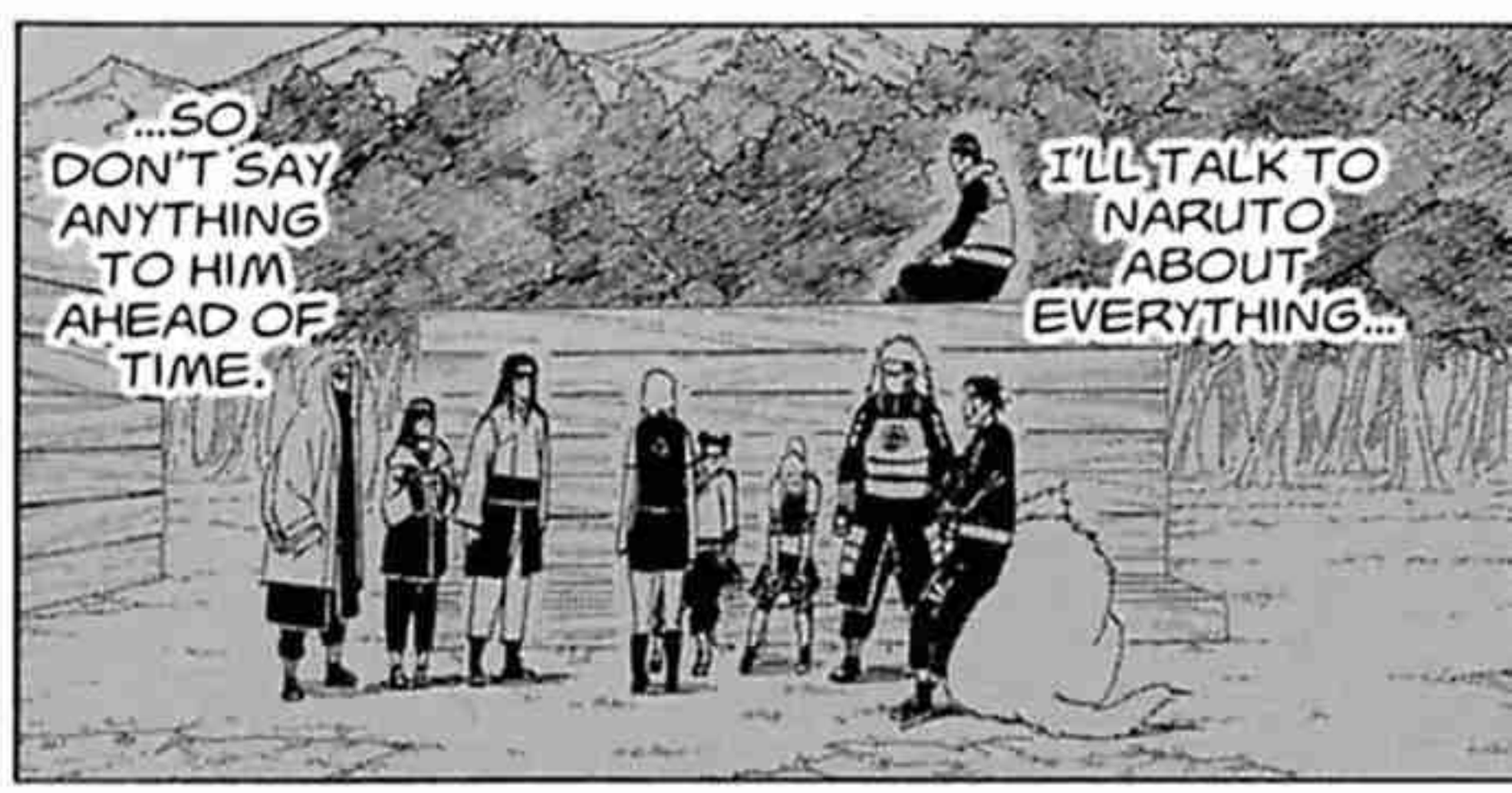
?!

UGH.
SKF
SKF

...I WILL NOT LET MASTER KAKASHI BEAR THE BURDEN!!

DON'T!
SAKURA... WHY DID YOU COME?!




...SO DON'T SAY ANYTHING TO HIM AHEAD OF TIME.
I'LL TALK TO NARUTO ABOUT EVERYTHING...

I HAVE TO MAKE MY DECISION AND STICK TO IT!!

...I'VE... GOT TO TAKE CARE OF IT ALL ON MY OWN...!
I CAN'T TELL NARUTO... ABOUT SUCH THINGS!

AND...!!

THANK YOU...

...I...!!

...I HAD MADE UP MY MIND...!!
...I THOUGHT...

CHA
UNH...!

!!
SAKURA...!!

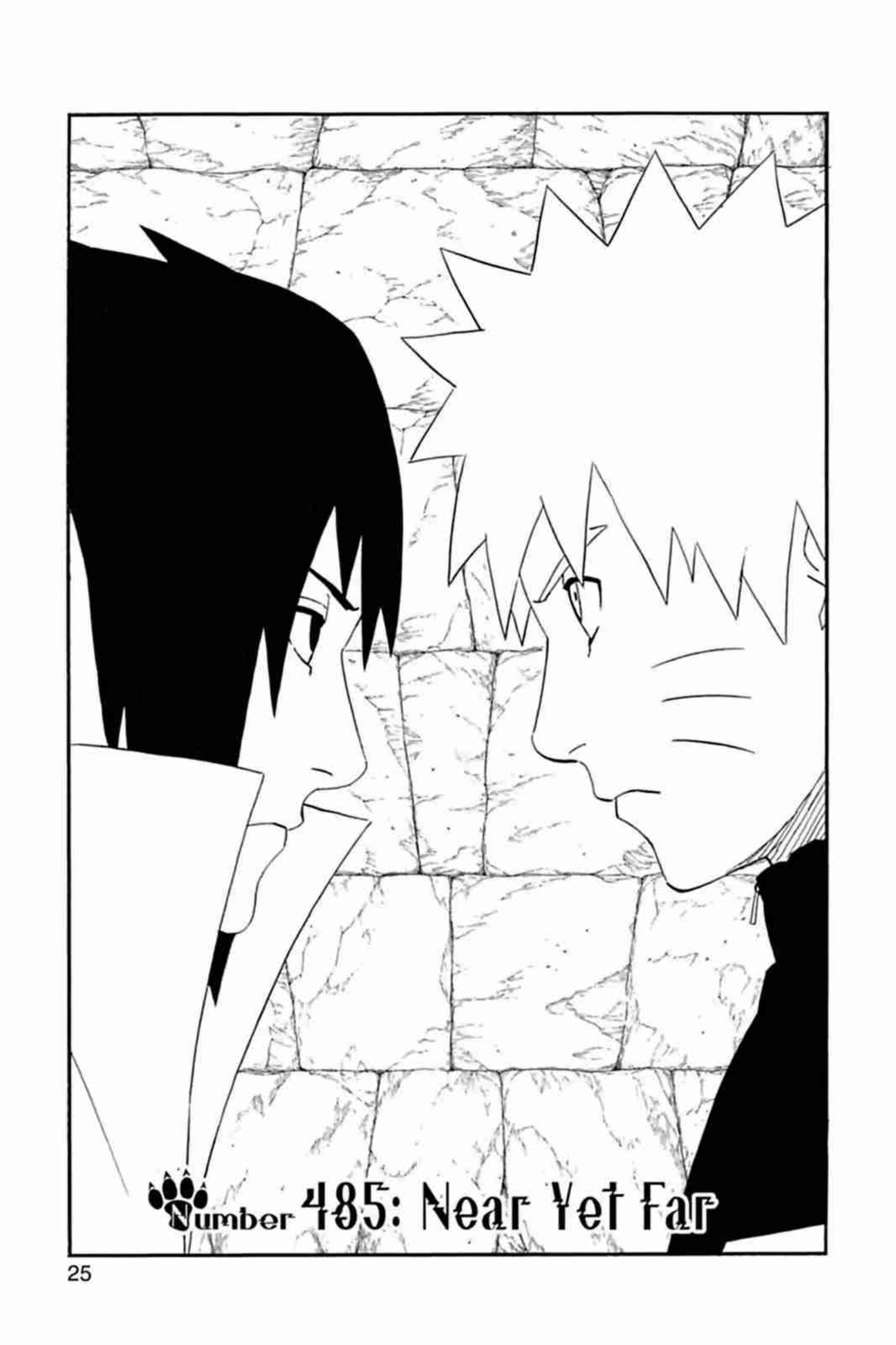
UNH... UGH...

URK!!!
TWCH
MANGEKYO ALWAYS WIPES ME OUT!!
SPLASH

FSH
WAP
KLAK

SASUKE!! DON'T!!

SLASH!


Number 485: Near Yet Far

Th
D

!

TAK

YOU'VE GOT EVEN BETTER TIMING THAN ME, NARUTO.
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU COMING HERE, BUT IT'S A GOOD THING YOU DID.

WUF
SPLASH

SAKURA'S FROM TEAM SEVEN, REMEMBER?
SASUKE...

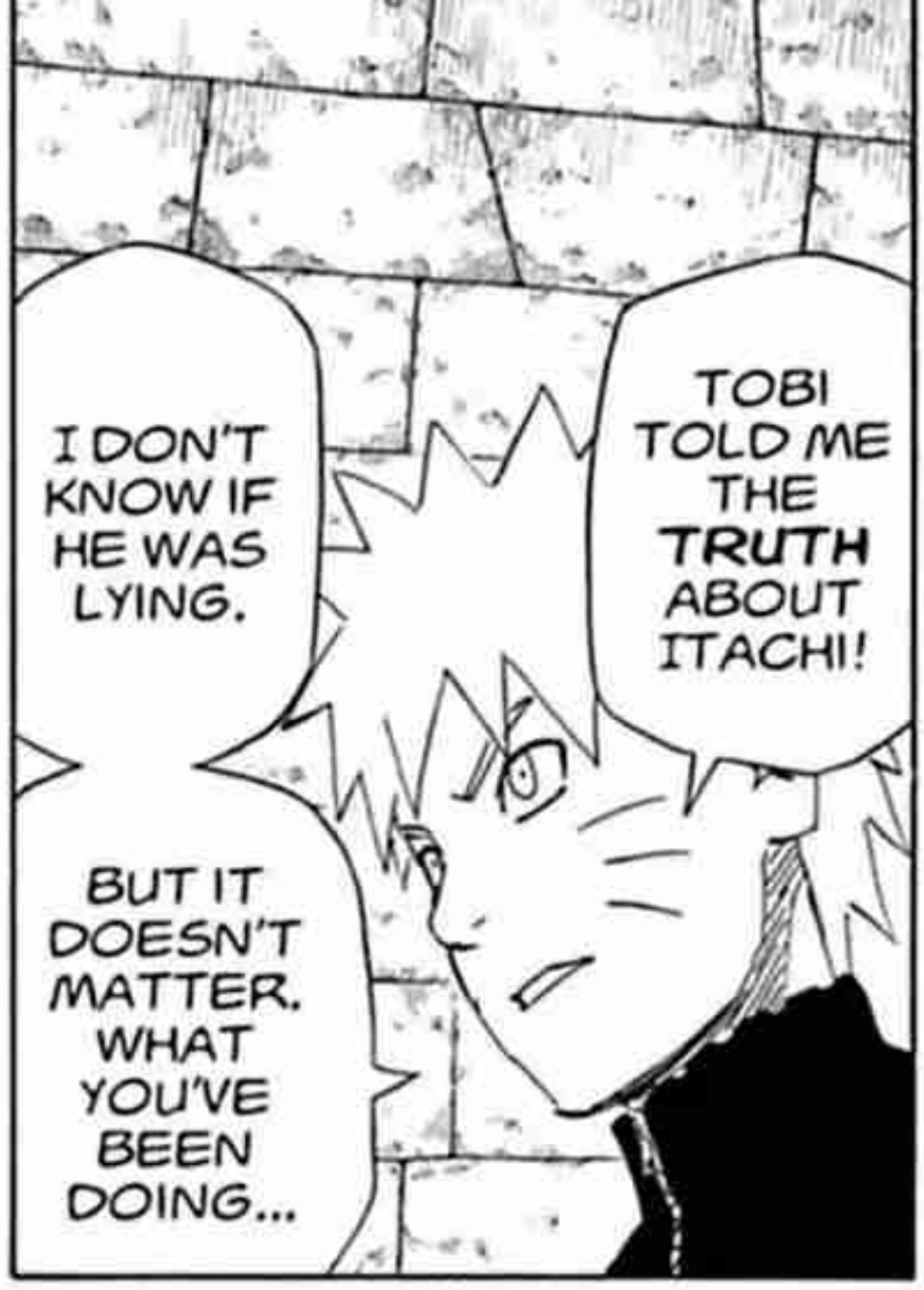
THANK YOU, NARUTO.
SSH

...
SHup

SASUKE IS NO LONGER THE SAME SASUKE AS BEFORE.
NOW DO YOU UNDER-STAND, NARUTO?

THAT'S FORMER TEAM SEVEN...
FOR ME.

THE TRUTH ABOUT ITACHI ?!
!


I DON'T KNOW IF HE WAS LYING.
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER. WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING...
TOBI TOLD ME THE TRUTH ABOUT ITACHI!

SASUKE!
WHAT ?!

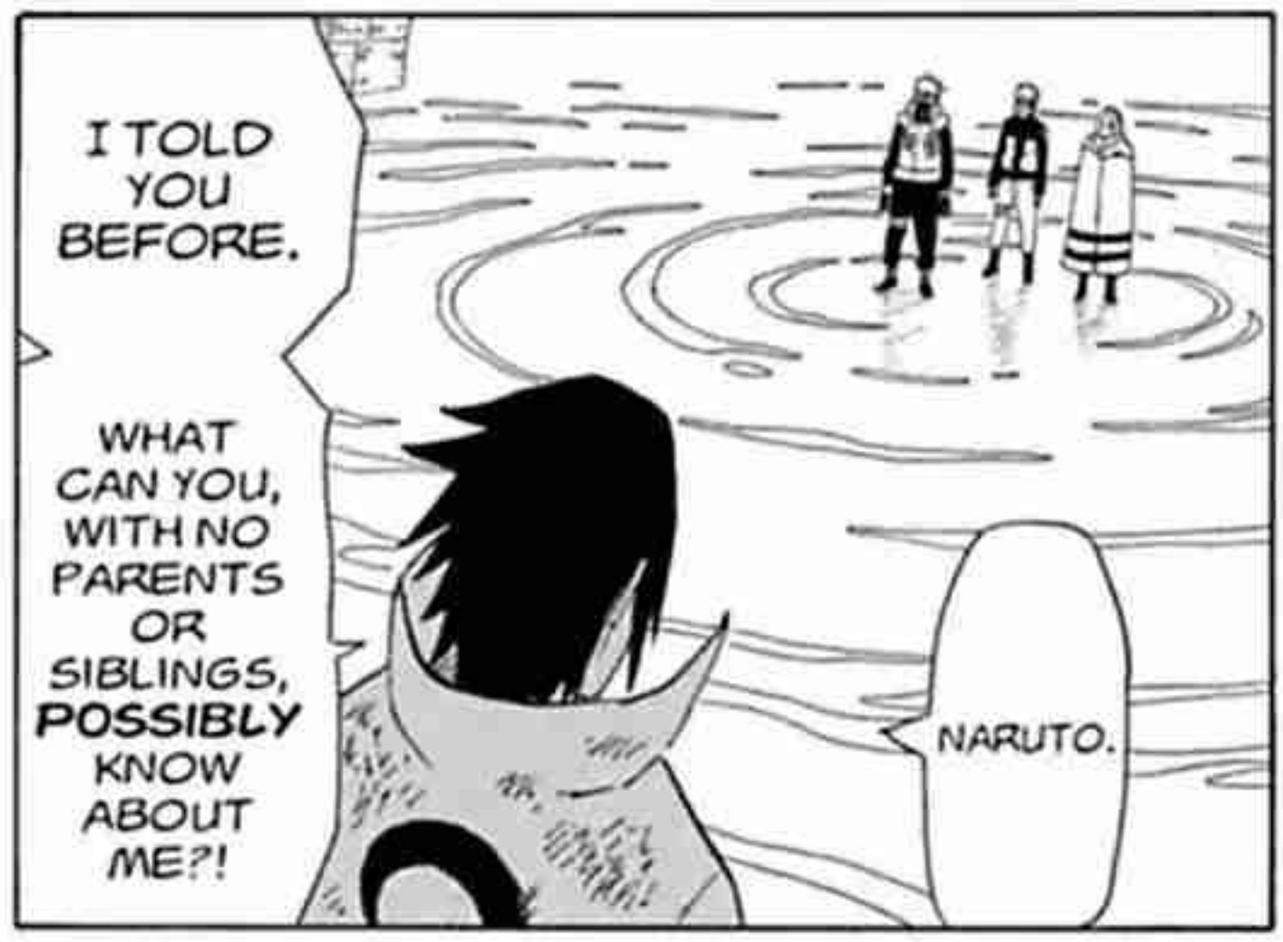
I GET IT.

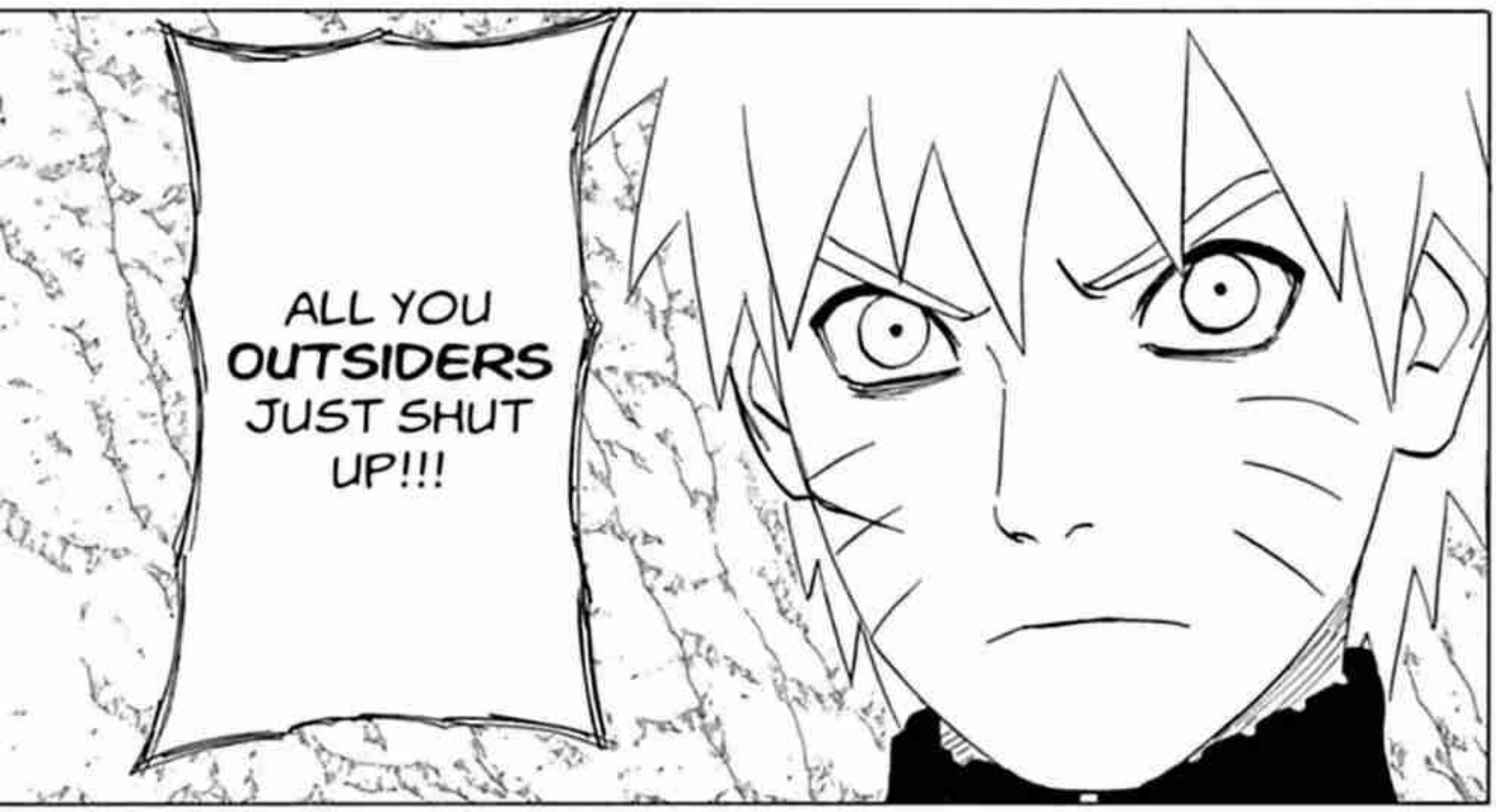
...!
HRH

?!

!

READ THIS WAY



!!

WHAT?! HE KILLED DANZO?!
!!

I KILLED A KONOHA ELDER! RIGHT HERE!
THE ONE CALLED DANZO.
JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, I FINALLY GOT TO TAKE REVENGE ON ONE BEHIND ITACHI'S BETRAYAL.

I FEEL THE TAINTED UCHIHA NAME BECOMING CLEANSED.
I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THIS BEFORE.

YOU'VE ALWAYS SNUBBED AND PUT DOWN THE UCHIHA. SO FINE, I'LL HELP ERASE THE UCHIHA FROM YOUR MEMORIES.
AND ISN'T THIS EXACTLY WHAT YOU KONOHA SHINOBI HAVE WANTED ALL ALONG?

I FEEL THE UCHIHA BECOMING FREED FROM THIS ROTTING SHINOBI WORLD.

THE SEVERING OF ALL BONDS IS THE ULTIMATE PURIFICATION!

AND THAT SHALL LEAD TO UCHIHA'S TRUE RESTORATION!

BY KILLING ALL OF YOU AND DESTROYING KONOHA ITSELF!

IT IS THE HISTORY OF REPEATED, ACCUMULATING HATRED THAT HAS CREATED THE SASUKE BEFORE US...

HATRED.

SASUKE!

FSH

WHICH IS ESPECIALLY WHY...

AND EVEN IF IT'S NOT CRYSTAL CLEAR, NARUTO AND SAKURA ARE SEEING WITH THEIR OWN EYES THAT SASUKE IS A VICTIM OF THE TIMES WE LIVE IN.

BOOF SSH BO

THIS IS MY TASK.

!!

NARUTO, SAKURA, GET YOURSELVES AWAY FROM HERE.

SASUKE CANNOT BE KILLED WITH THE POISON-DIPPED KUNAI SHIZUNE TAUGHT YOU.

BUT I—!

HE STILL HAS OROCHIMARU'S POISON RESISTANCE.

AND YOU ALSO KNOW HOW YOU FEEL...

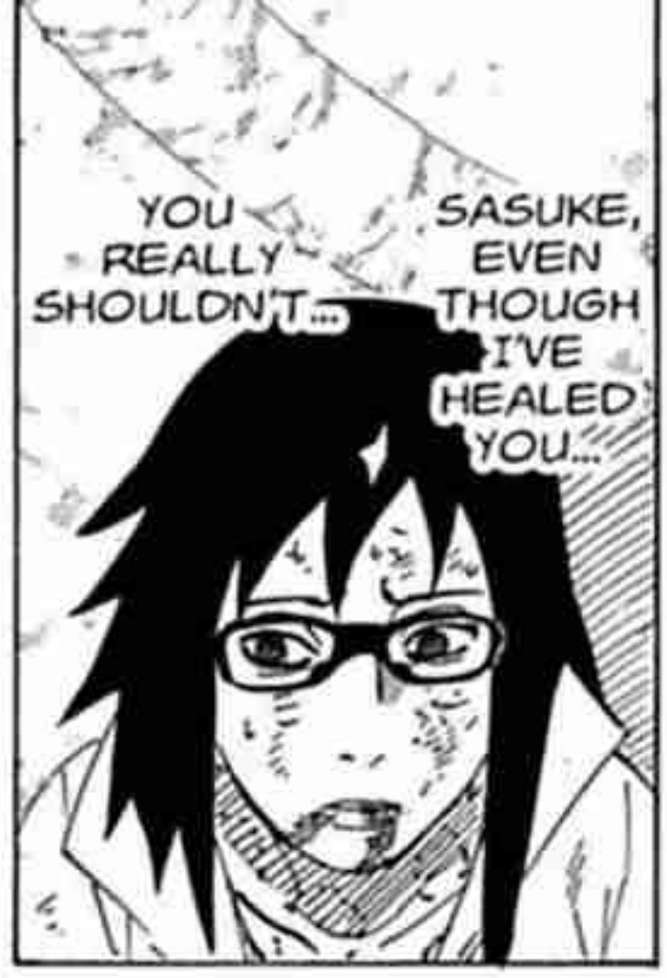
SPLISH SPLISH

GO!

YOU'LL SEE THINGS YOU DO **NOT** WANT TO SEE.

MASTER KAKASHI!

ACTUALLY, WHAT AM I SAYING? WHY SHOULD I STILL CARE?


YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T...
SASUKE, EVEN THOUGH I'VE HEALED YOU...

MASTER KAKASHI, DO YOU MEAN...

YOU'RE GOING TO KILL SASUKE?!

CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
SPLISH

...

SPLASH

GO!

?!

CHAK

TAK

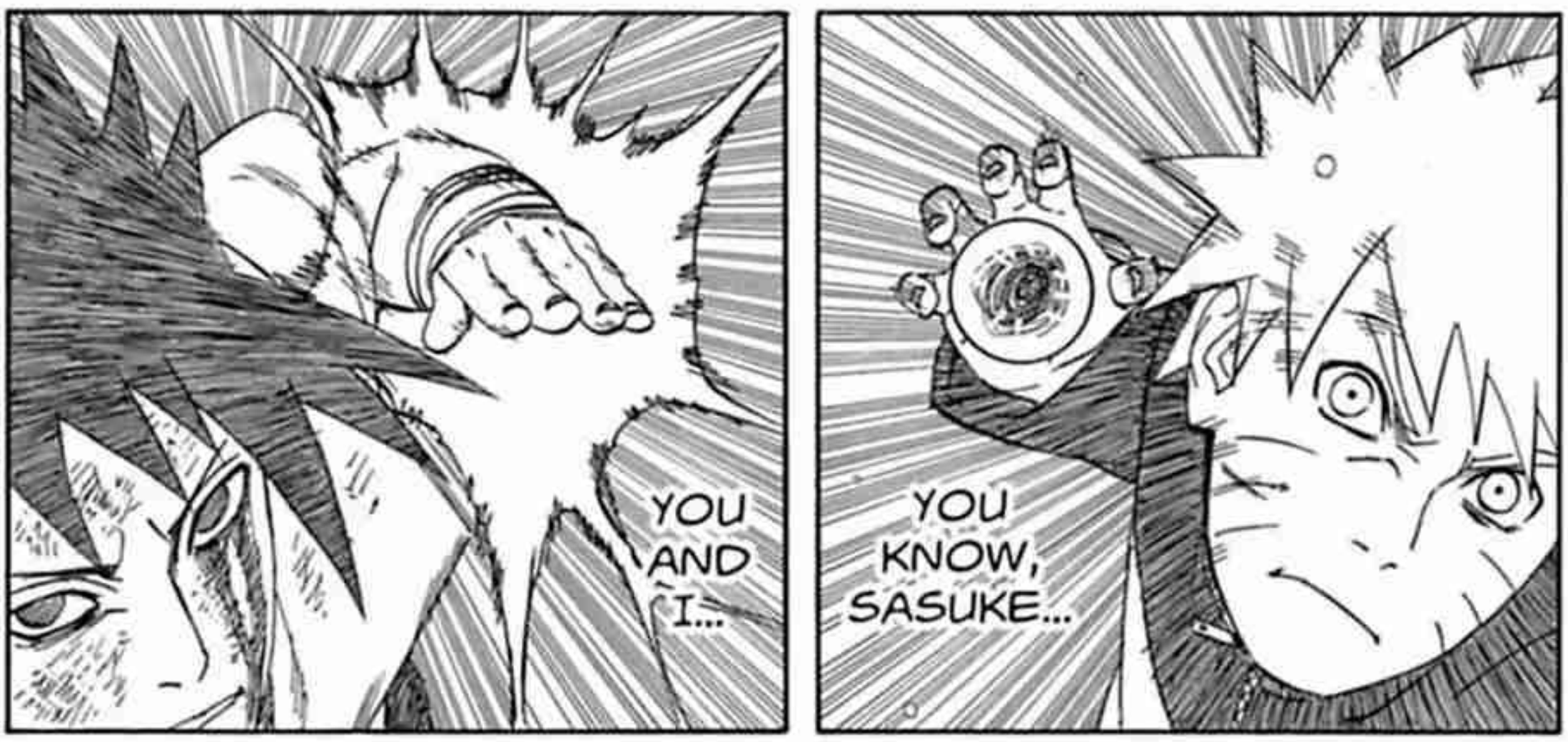
!!

NOW'S MY CHANCE!

I'M NOT HOLDING BACK!

NARUTO!!

NARUTO, WAIT!

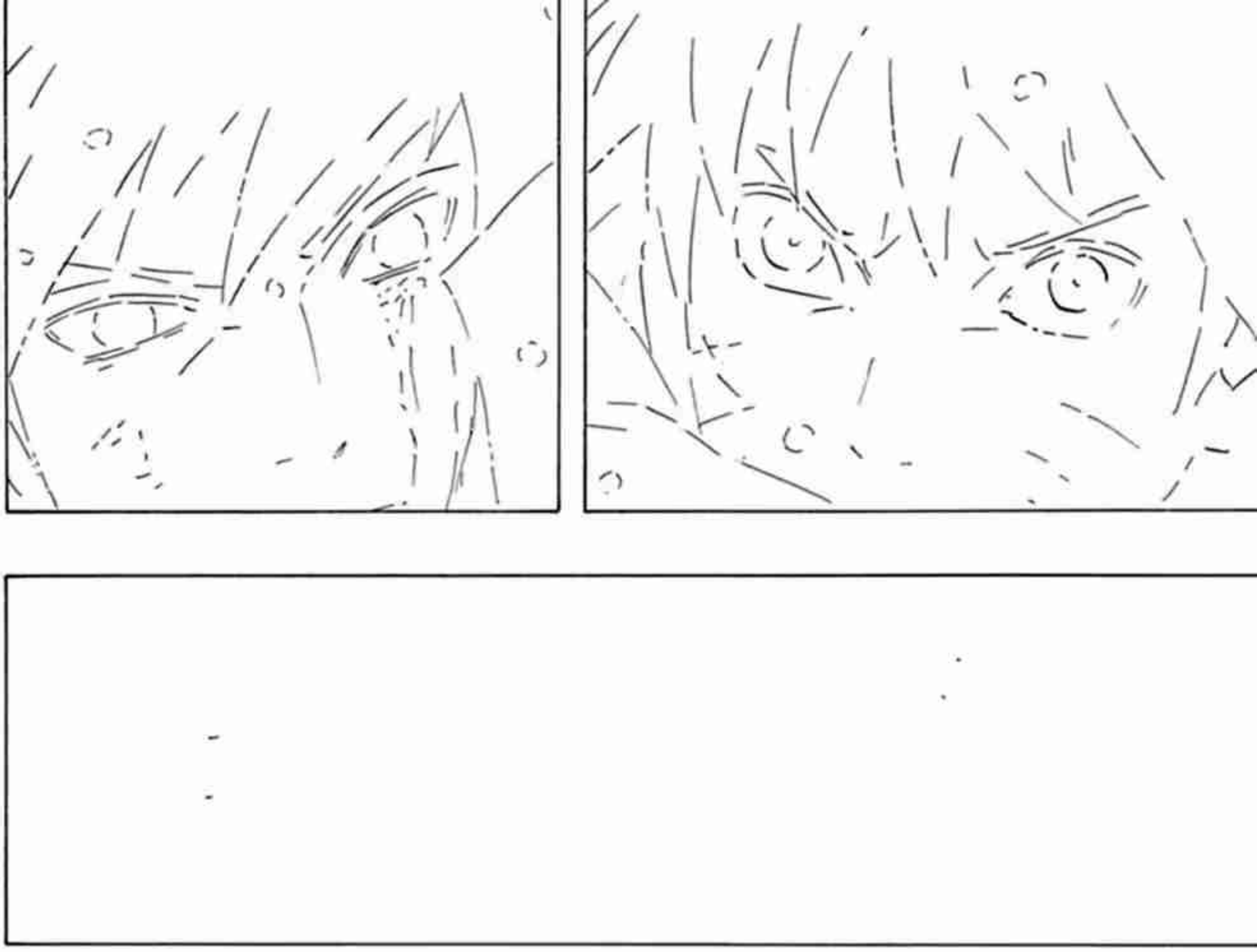

YOU KNOW, SASUKE...
YOU AND I...

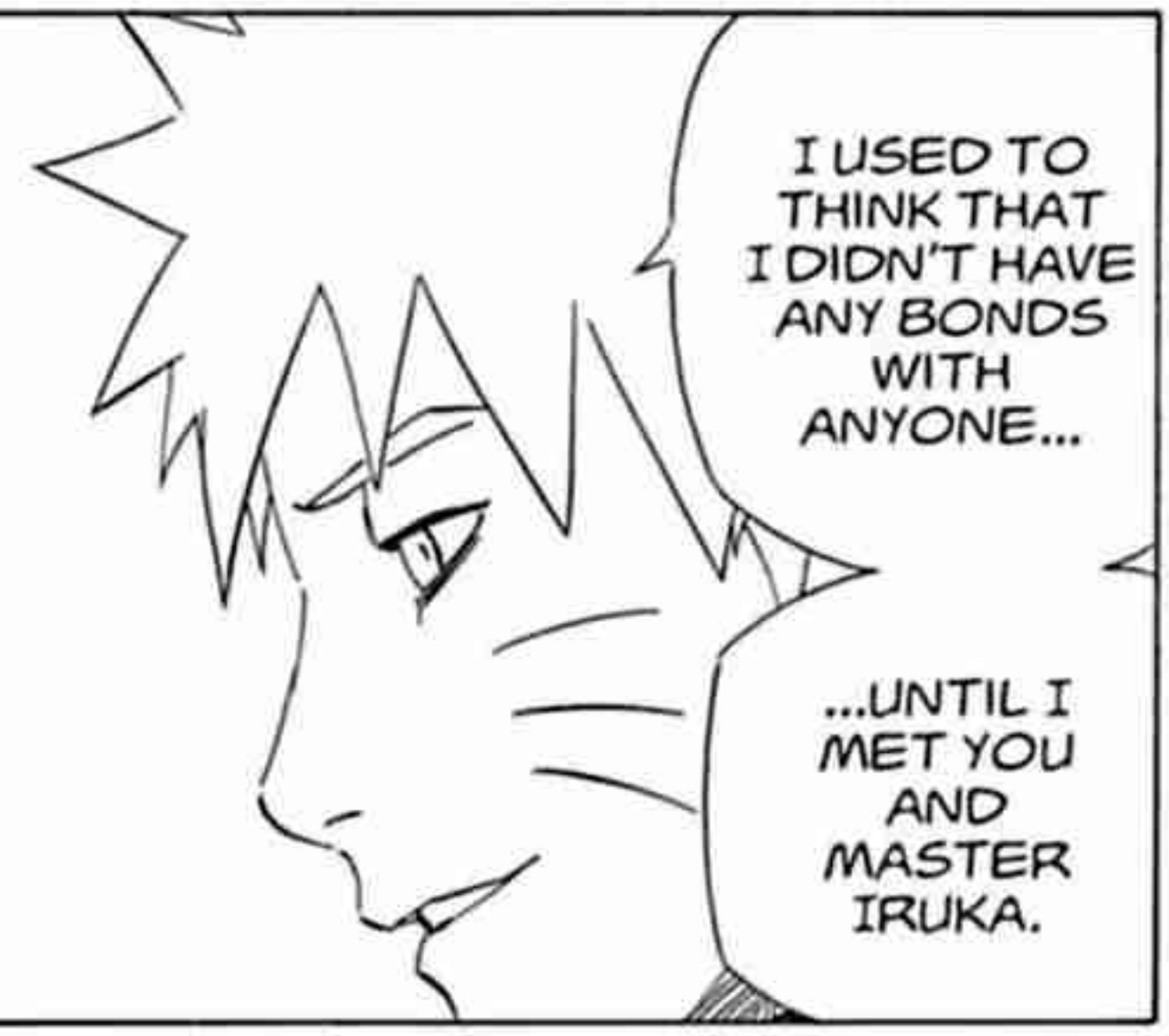
OUR ROLES COULD HAVE BEEN REVERSED.

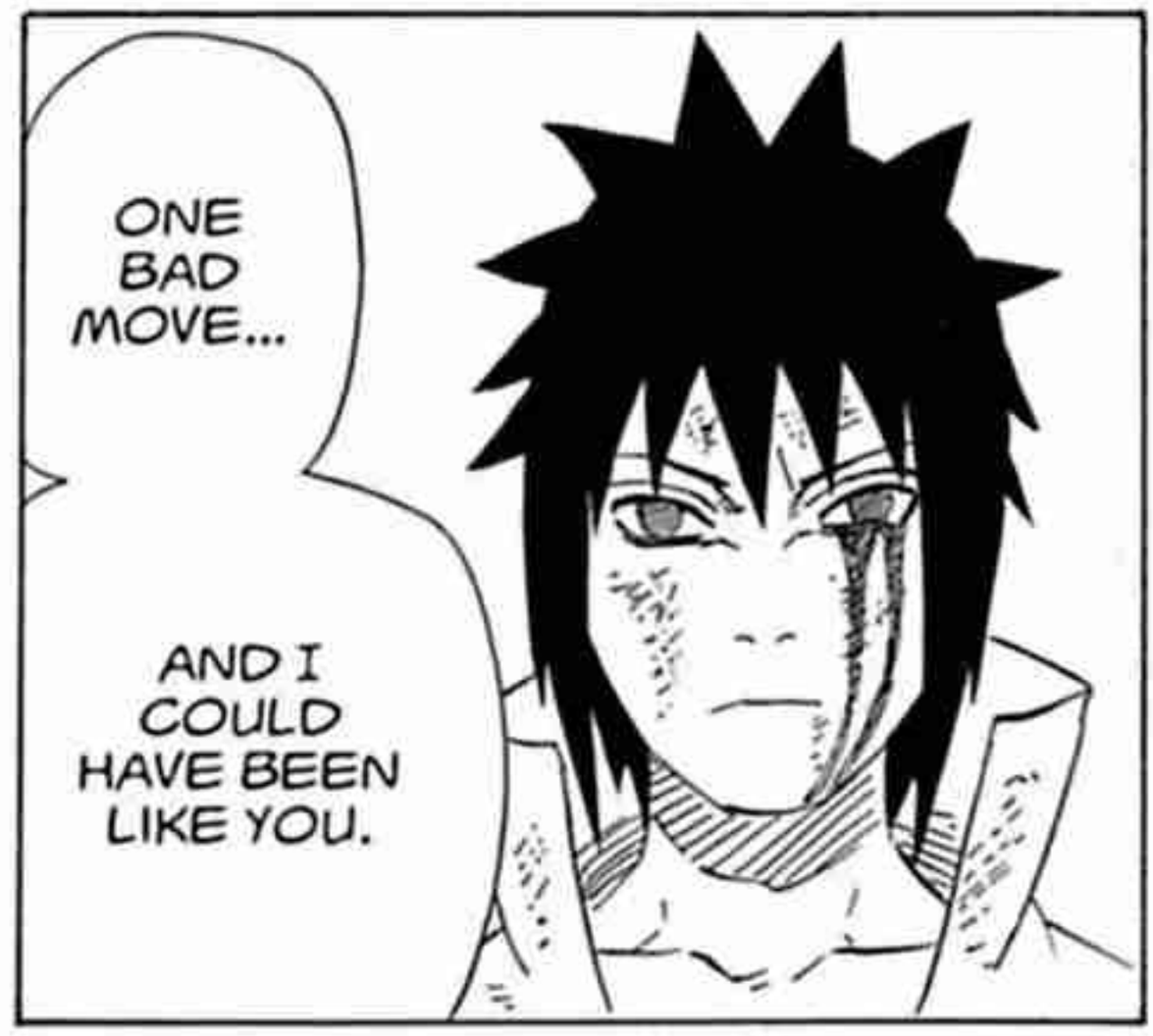
CHIDORI!!

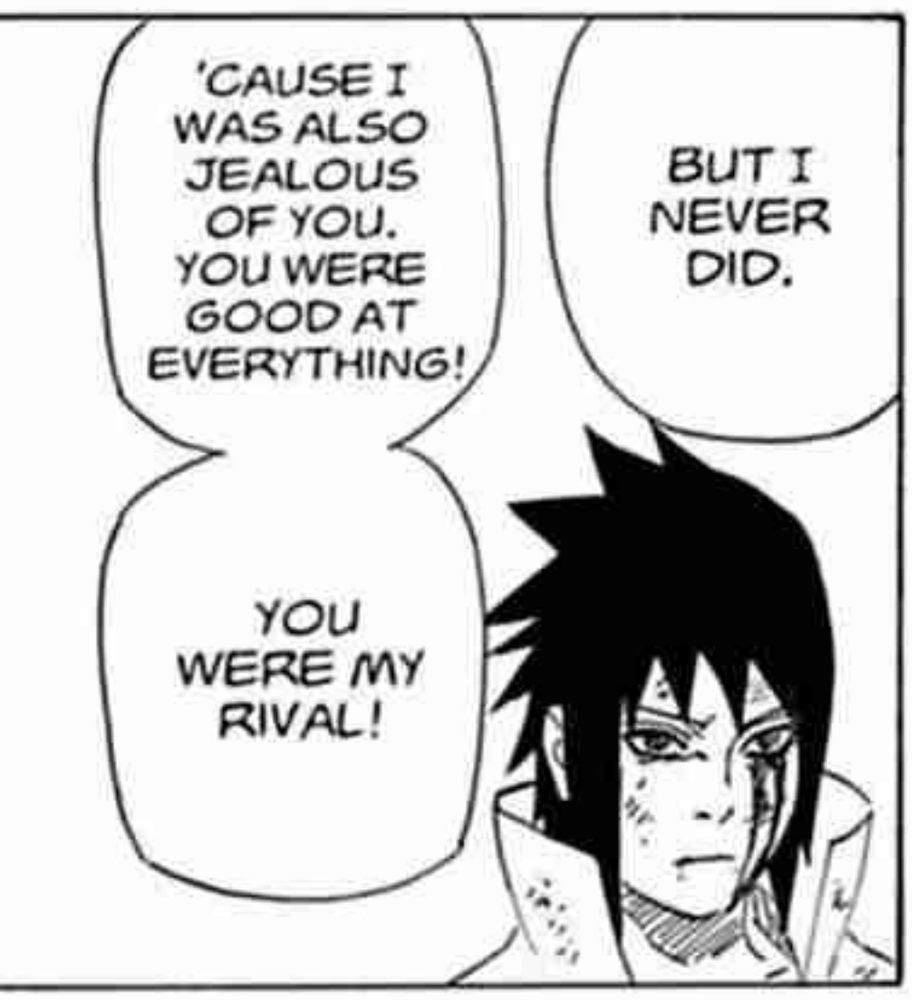
RASENGAN!!

VOOSH


'CAUSE I HAVE NINE TAILS INSIDE ME.
REMEMBER? THE ENTIRE VILLAGE USED TO HATE ME.
I WANTED REVENGE.
AND I HATED THEM RIGHT BACK.


I USED TO THINK THAT I DIDN'T HAVE ANY BONDS WITH ANYONE...
...UNTIL I MET YOU AND MASTER IRUKA.


ONE BAD MOVE...
AND I COULD HAVE BEEN LIKE YOU.


'CAUSE I WAS ALSO JEALOUS OF YOU. YOU WERE GOOD AT EVERYTHING!
BUT I NEVER DID.
YOU WERE MY RIVAL!

I FELT BETTER KNOWING THERE WAS SOMEONE LIKE YOU, LIKE ME OUT THERE. I TRIED TO BE YOUR FRIEND, BE AROUND YOU...
I ALWAYS KNEW YOU WERE ALONE TOO.
...SO I WOULD FEEL HAPPY.

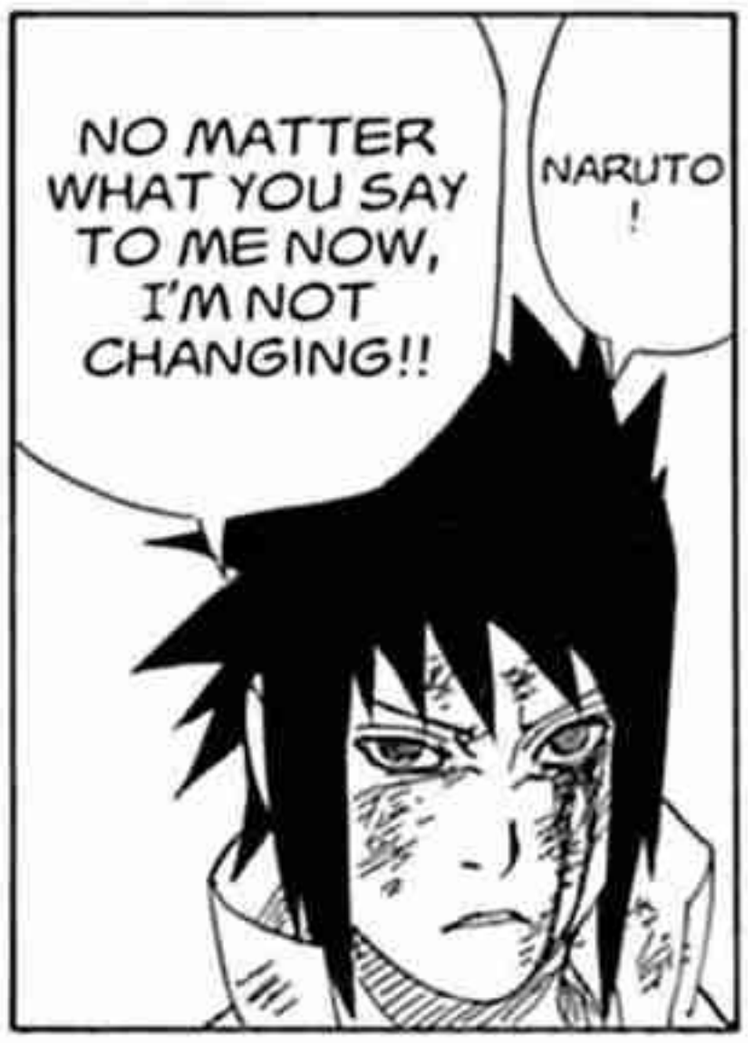
...

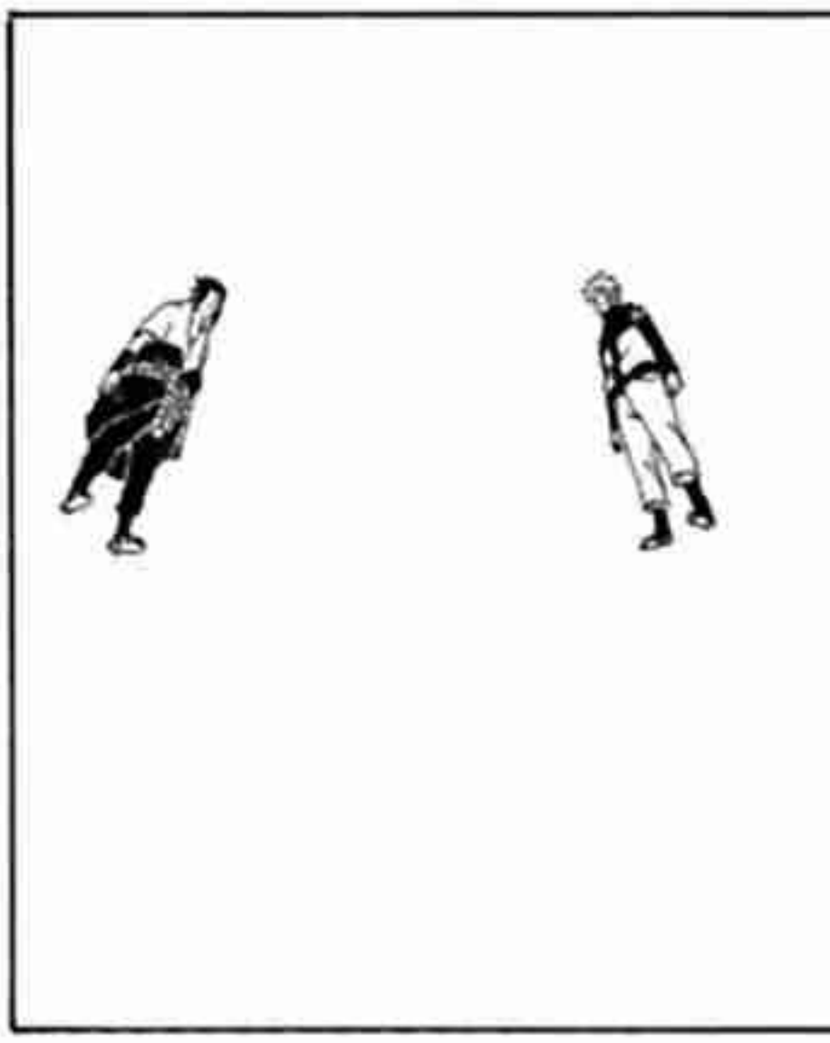
...

AND THEN IN OUR MISSIONS AS TEAM SEVEN...
I HAD NOTHING, BUT I BUILT BONDS...
I KEPT CHASING AFTER YOU. I WANTED TO BE STRONG LIKE YOU. COOL LIKE YOU.

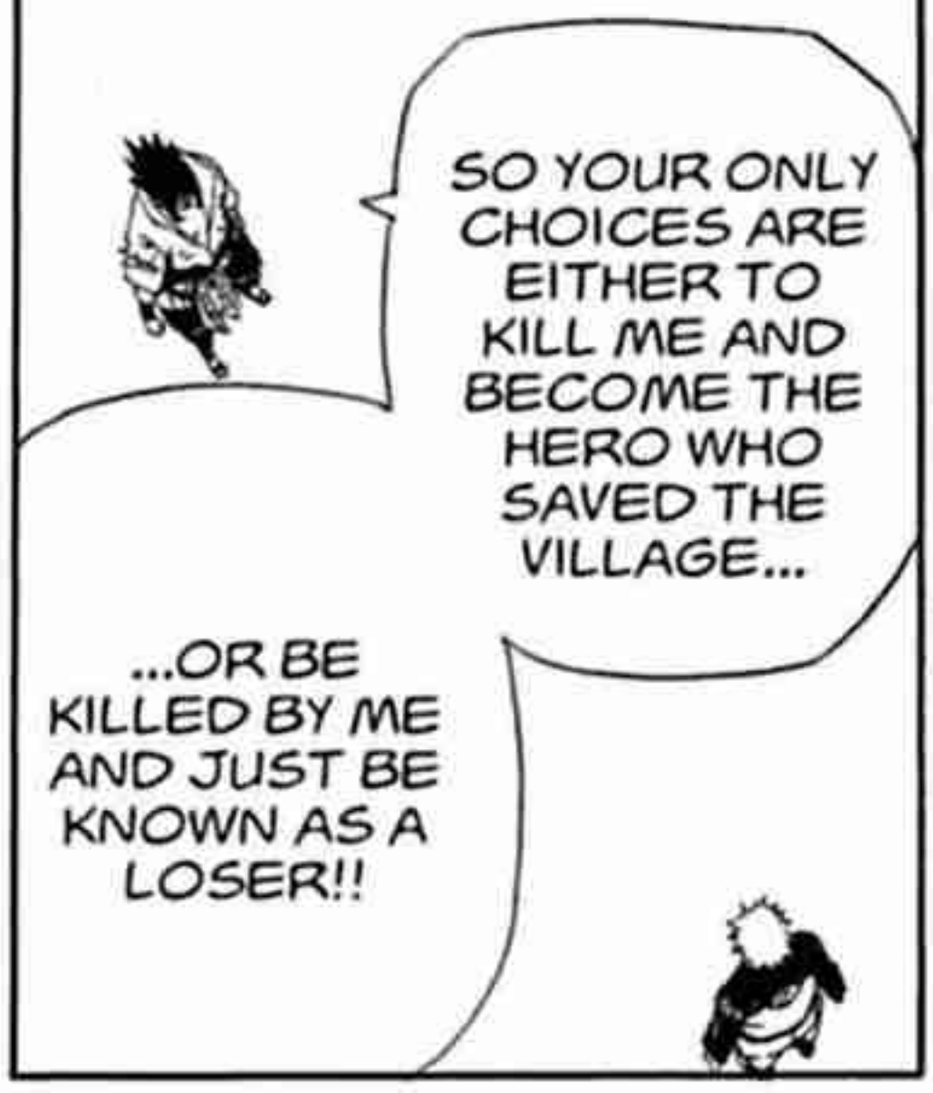
YOU WERE MY GOAL.

I'M HAPPY I KNEW YOU.



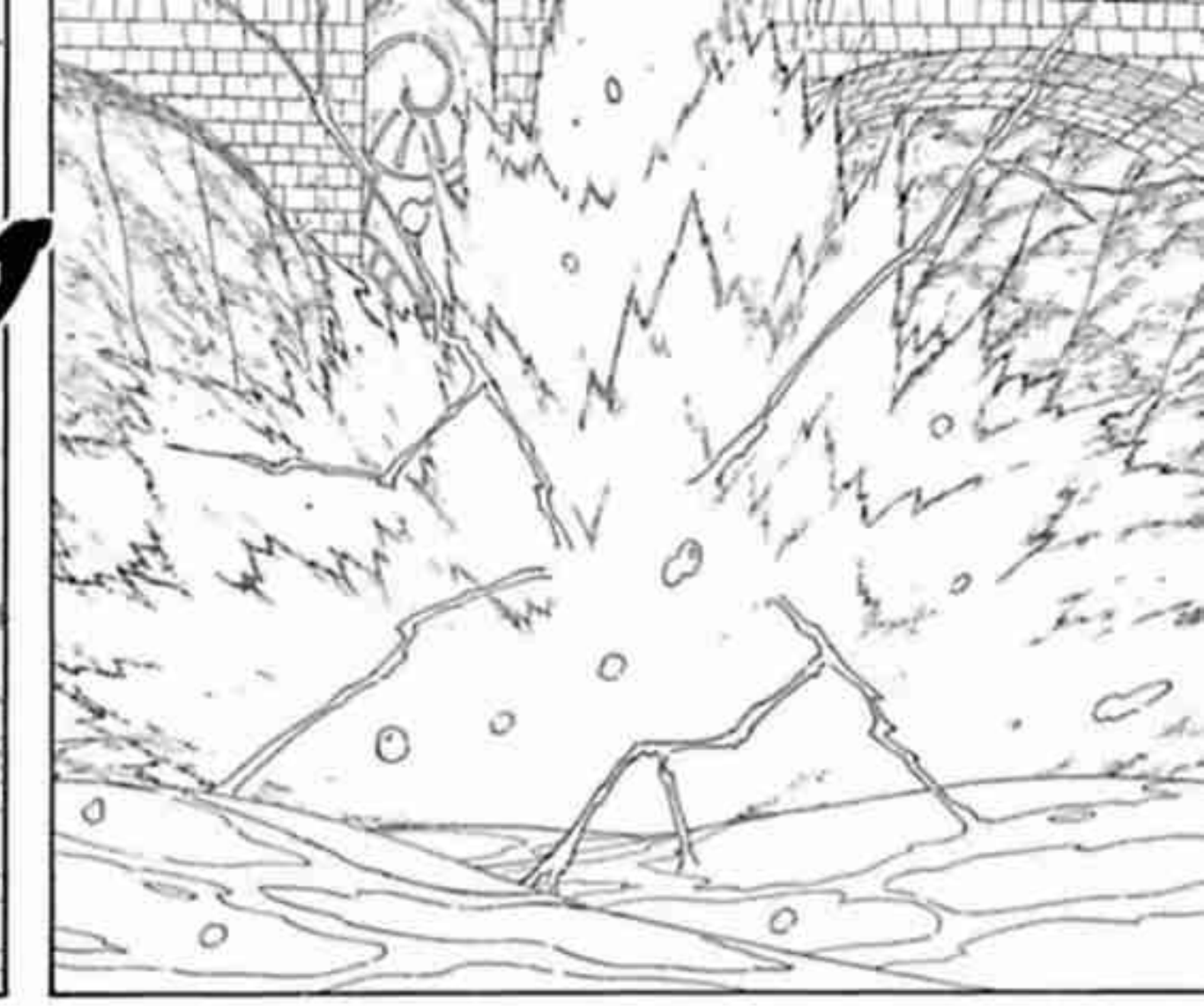
NEITHER!!
I'M NOT GOING TO BE A LOSER! OR THE HERO WHO **KILLED YOU**!
SSH


SO YOUR ONLY CHOICES ARE EITHER TO KILL ME AND BECOME THE HERO WHO SAVED THE VILLAGE...
...OR BE KILLED BY ME AND JUST BE KNOWN AS A LOSER!!

I...
DO

Number
486:
Fists
N
S

SPLOO
UGH!



KA
VOOSH

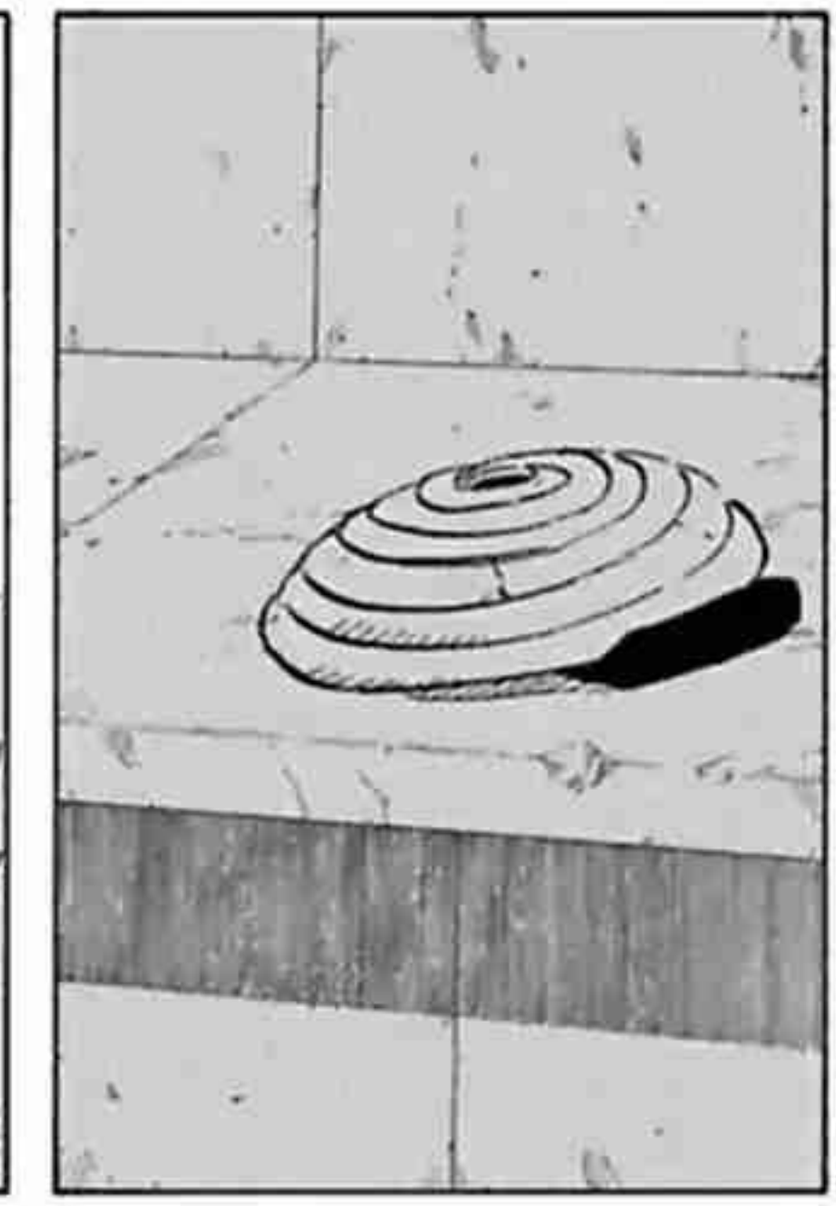
CHA
K

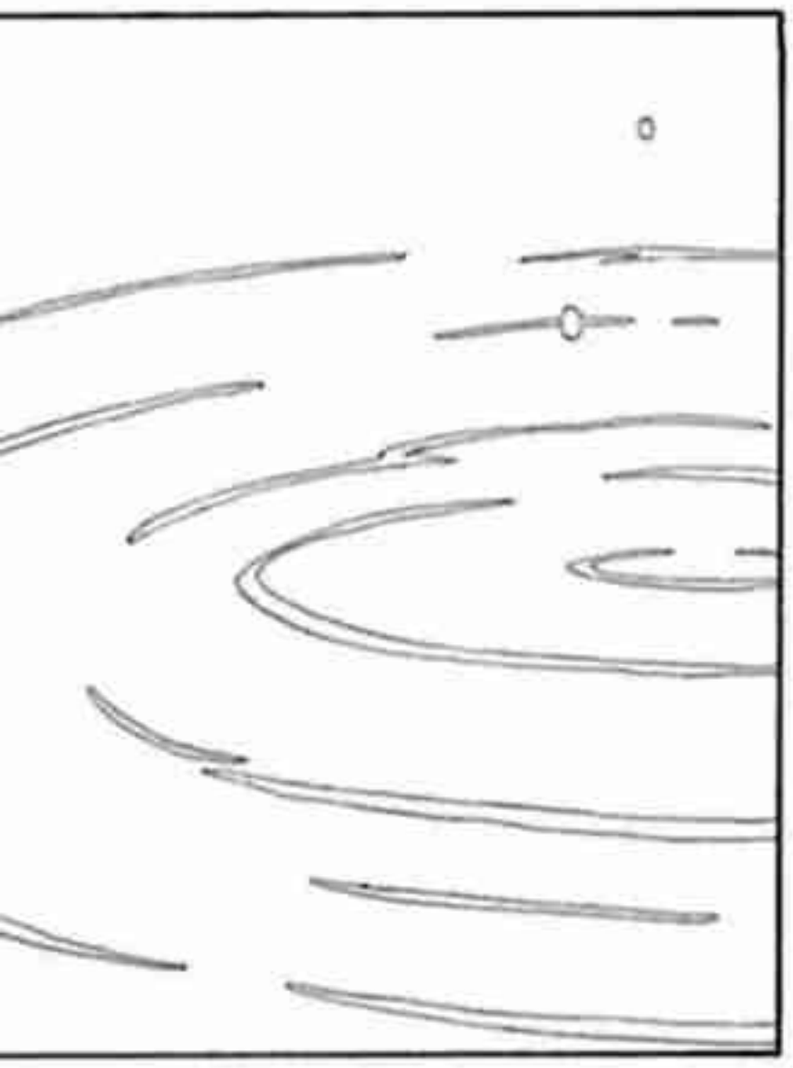
TA
K
WAH!
FWMP

ZWOO
WHOA!
UGH
SPRONG
THU
D
...TOBI TOLD ME NOT TO LET YOU SEE ME.
I'VE BEEN TAGGING ALONG FOR A WHILE.
WHEN...
HUF
HUF
...
YOU'RE ...!
SPLASH

BUT THIS IS A CRISIS SITUATION...

KRAK...
I OUGHT TO COLLECT THE RINNEGAN BEFORE THE WAR BEGINS.





WHADDYA WANNA DO?
SASUKE'S... IN A PINCH...
ZWOOO...

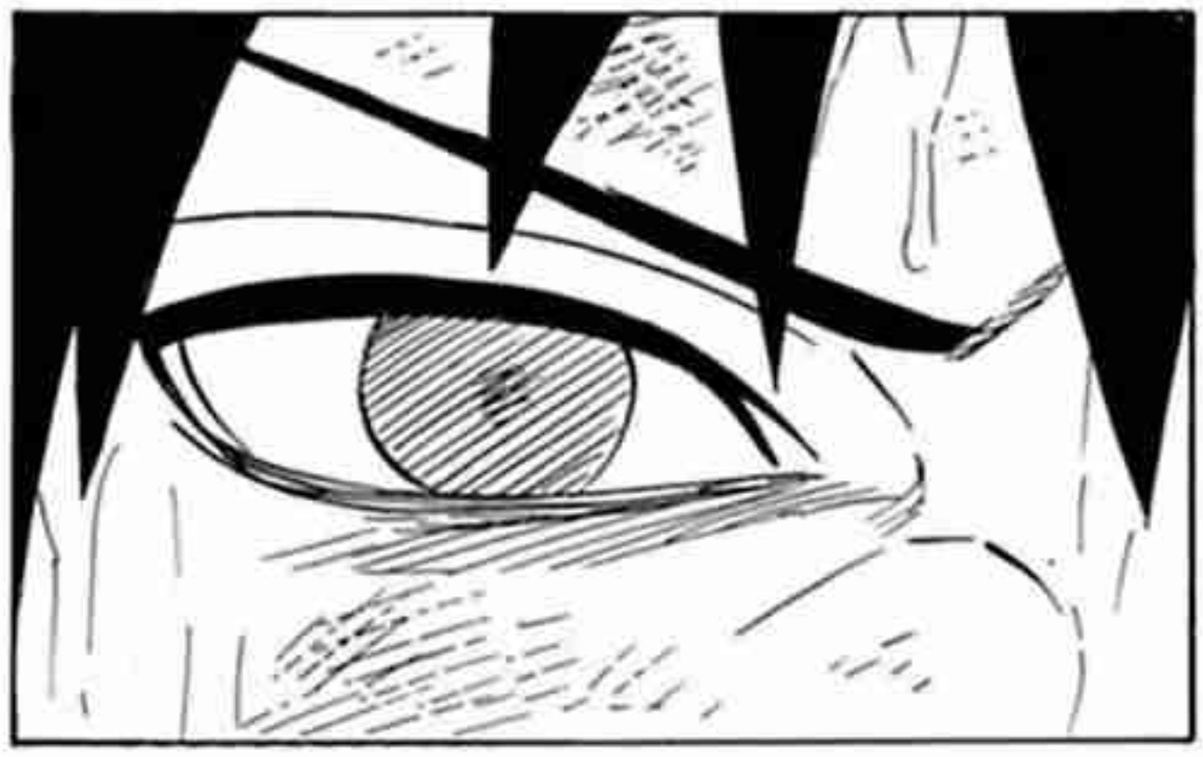
!

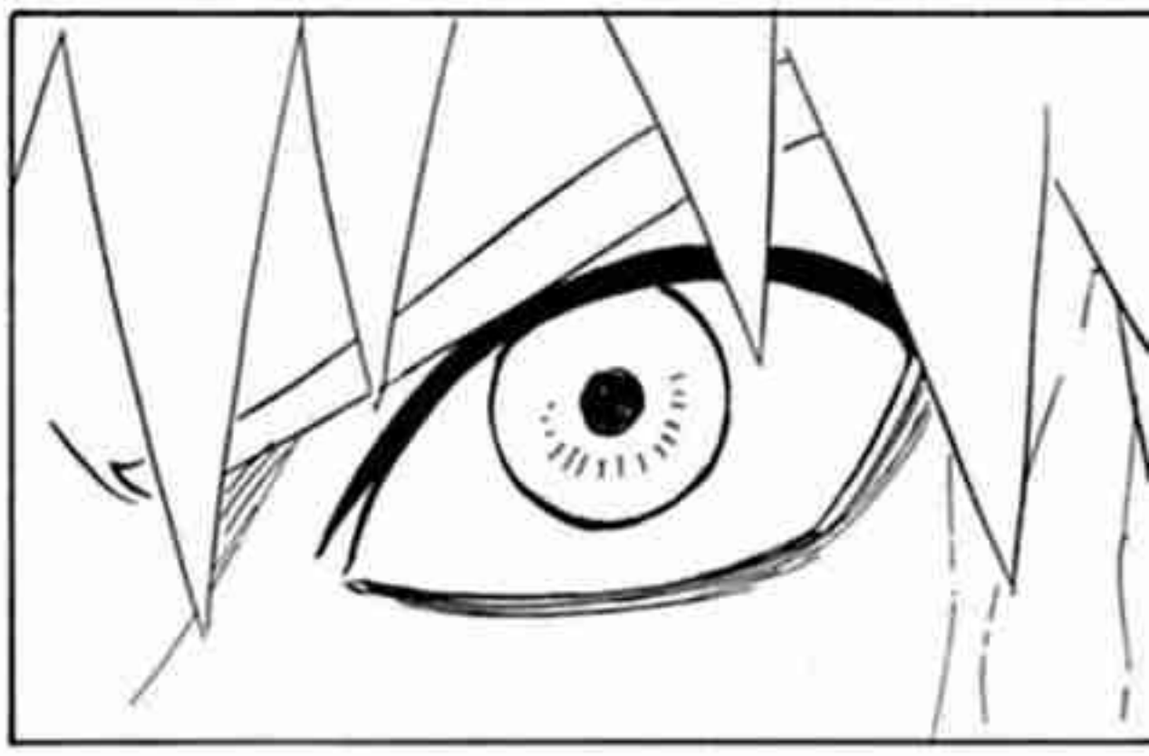
...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
IT'S ALL CLEAR...?

HUF
HUF

...





READ THIS WAY
!
ZWOOOO
MADARA ...
I TOLD YOU TO GO HOME AND REST.
...NINE TAILS, HUH...
...
HUF
...
HUF
RIGHT NOW, WE RE-TREAT.
I'LL ARRANGE THE PROPER TIME AND PLACE FOR FIGHTING THEM...

ZUU

WE NEED THE NINE TAILS' JINCHÛRIKI ANYWAY...

I'LL FIGHT IN YOUR STEAD.

ZUU

!

...AND PROVIDE ME WITH ENTER-TAINMENT WHILE HE'S AT IT...

WE'LL LET SASUKE REEL IN NINE TAILS...

NINE TAILS IS TOO TOUGH FOR A NON-BATTLE TYPE LIKE YOU...

ZETSU... CAPTURING NARUTO IS BEYOND YOU.

THIS IS GOING TO BE TOUGH ALL BY MYSELF... WHAT TO DO?

MADARA PLUS ZETSU... BOTH ATTACHED TO SASUKE'S SIDE...

NARUTO ...!
SPLISH SPLISH

AFTER RENDEZ-VOUSING WITH YOUR BLACK HALF.
OUR BIGGER CONCERN IS KISAME... GO CHECK ON HIM.
...YES, YES, ALL RIGHT.

LET'S GO, SASUKE...

I KNOW...
THERE'S JUST ONE THING I WANT TO MAKE SURE TO SAY TO SASUKE.
SPLISH

SSH...

...

...?
WAIT...

...

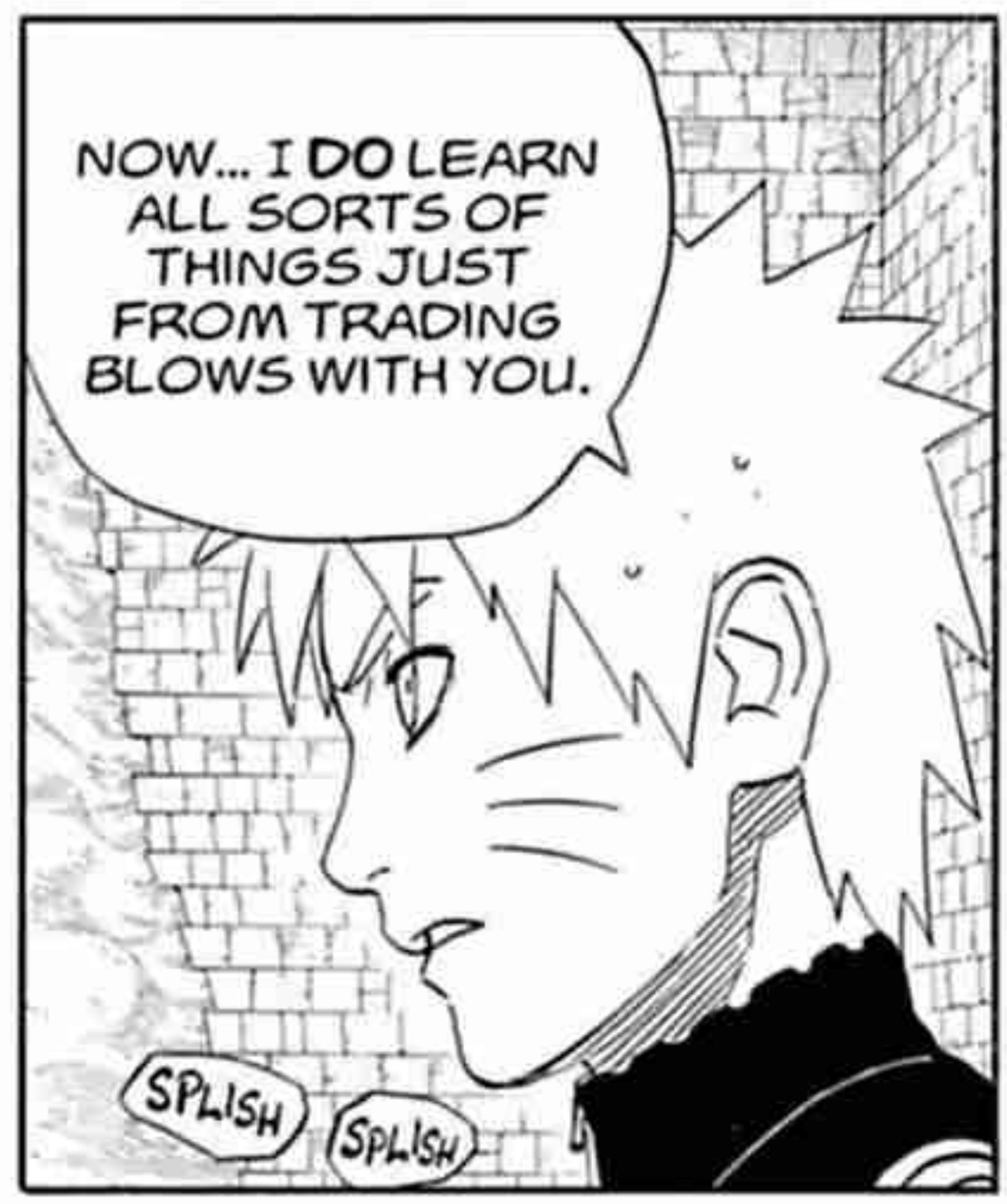
SASUKE...
THE THING ABOUT WHEN TWO SHINOBI ARE OF A HIGH ENOUGH LEVEL...
DO YOU REMEMBER... WHAT YOU SAID TO ME LONG AGO AT THE FINAL VALLEY?

WHEN TWO SHINOBI ARE OF A HIGH ENOUGH LEVEL, THEY CAN READ EACH OTHER'S THOUGHTS, THROUGH NO MORE THAN A TRADE OF BLOWS.

...WHAT'S ON MY MIND?
DO YOU KNOW MY THOUGHTS? CAN YOU TELL ME...

SO TELL ME.
THEY DON'T NEED TO SAY A WORD. AH, NARUTO... NAÏVE AS ALWAYS.

IT MEANS WE'RE HIGH-LEVEL SHINOBI, SASUKE.
YOU AND ME...
SPLISH
SPLISH


NOW... I DO LEARN ALL SORTS OF THINGS JUST FROM TRADING BLOWS WITH YOU.
SPLISH
SPLISH

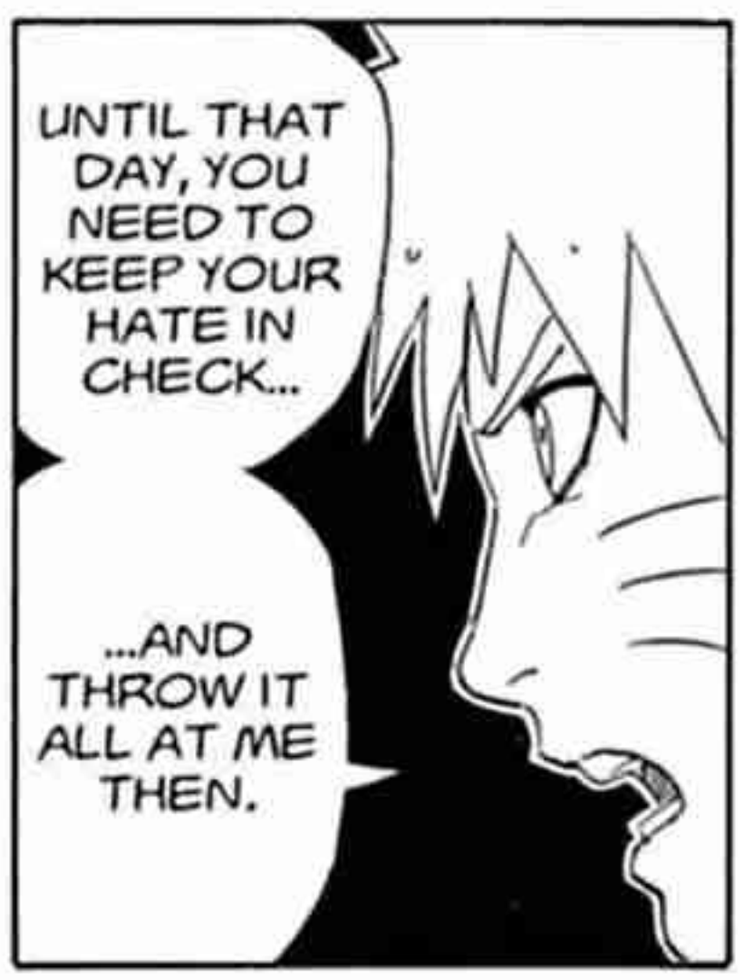
READ MY THOUGHTS?
DOINK
SASUKE...
...CAN YOU TELL WHAT I'M THINKING TOO...?

...?

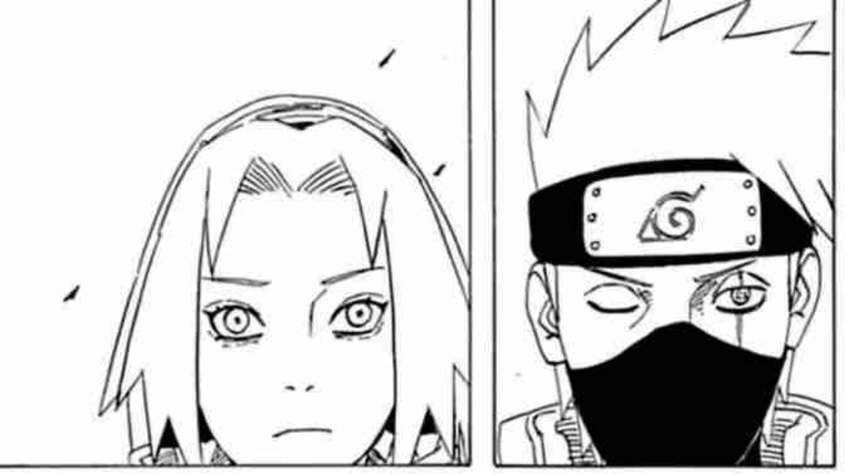
...

THAT IF YOU AND I FIGHT...
YOU SEE, RIGHT?

...WE DIE.



I BEAR THE BURDEN OF YOUR HATE, AND I'LL DIE WITH YOU!



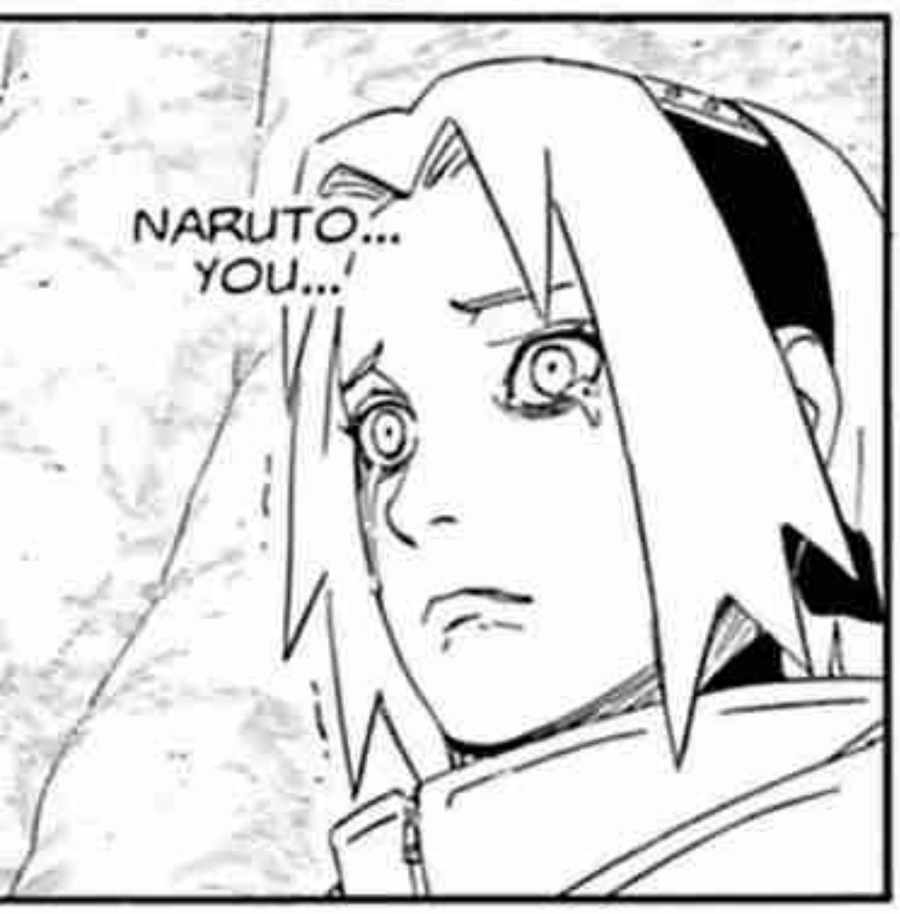
...A LOT OF WORK TO FINALLY UNDERSTAND YOU!
SASUKE... I KNEW FROM THE MOMENT WE FIRST MET THAT IT WAS GOING TO TAKE...

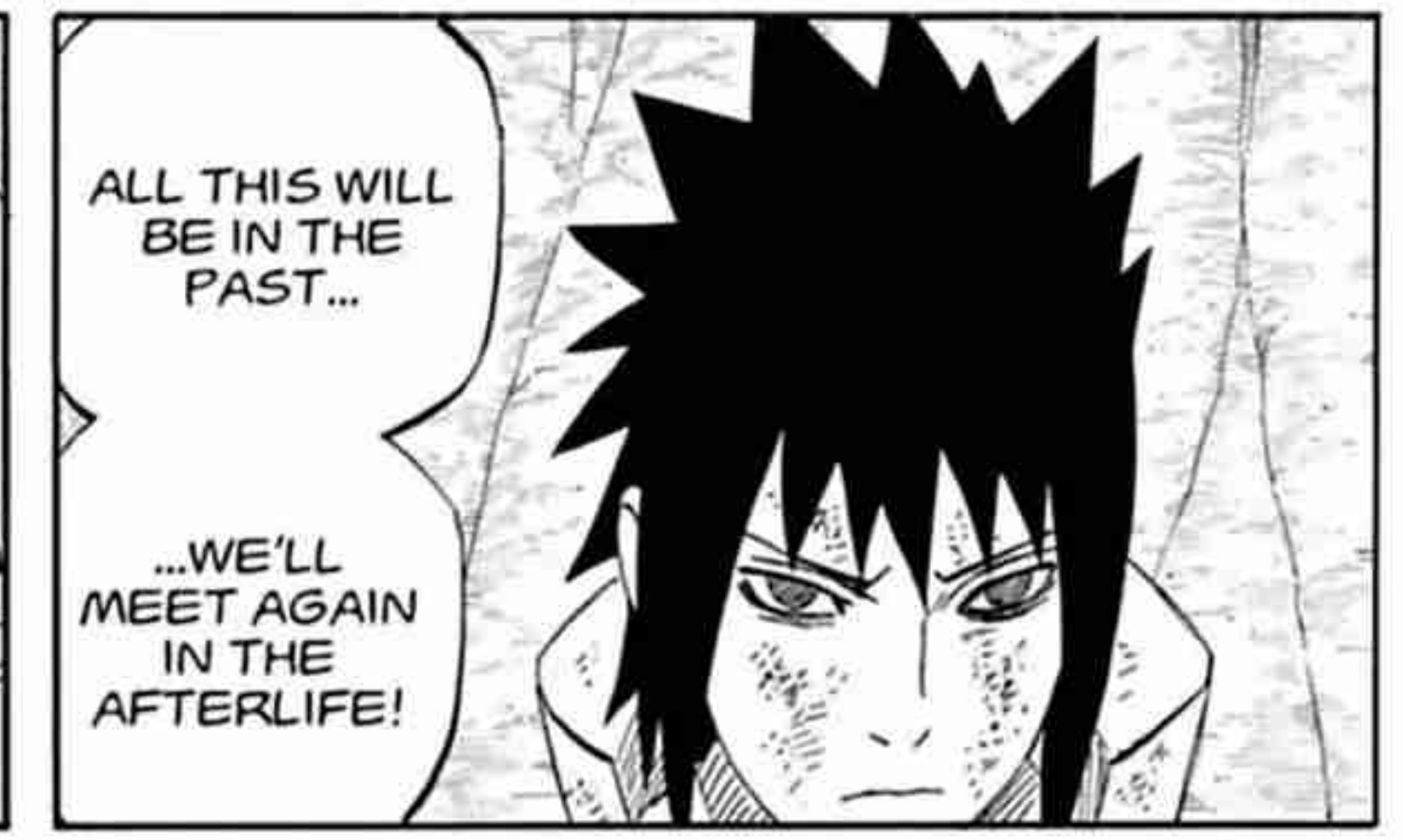
ESPECIALLY NOW THAT WE'RE BOTH FIRST-RATE SHINOBI!
I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I? I CAN ONLY UNDERSTAND YOU BY USING MY FISTS!
SSH

...JUST LIKE MINE DID WHEN I MET MASTER IRUKA...
ONCE WE REALLY UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, YOUR HATRED WILL GO AWAY...

BECAUSE YOU'RE MY FRIEND!!

I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON YOU YET!
...WHO'D'A THOUGHT I'D EVER BE TRYING TO LECTURE YOU!
ALL RIGHT... I'M DONE NAGGING YOU!
...YOU WON'T BE AN UCHIHA AND I WON'T BE THE JINCHÛRIKI TO THE NINE TAILS.
HEH HEH HEH... IF WE BOTH DIE...


NARUTO... YOU...!


ALL THIS WILL BE IN THE PAST...
...WE'LL MEET AGAIN IN THE AFTERLIFE!

I CAN'T LET YOU BECOME YOUR OWN COLLATERAL DAMAGE WHILE TAKING DOWN SASUKE...
BUT I'M NOT WORTHY OF BEING HOKAGE IF I CAN'T SAVE A FRIEND.
ENOUGH, NARUTO... I'LL FIGHT SASUKE.
YOU'VE GOT YOUR VALUABLE DREAM OF BECOMING HOKAGE TO PRESERVE...

NOR ANY INTENTION OF MEETING YOU...!
I...HAVE NO PLANS TO CHANGE!
I DON'T PLAN TO DIE, EITHER... YOU'LL BE THE ONLY ONE TO DIE!

...FIGHT SASUKE!!
I'LL...

NARUTO

# Number 487:

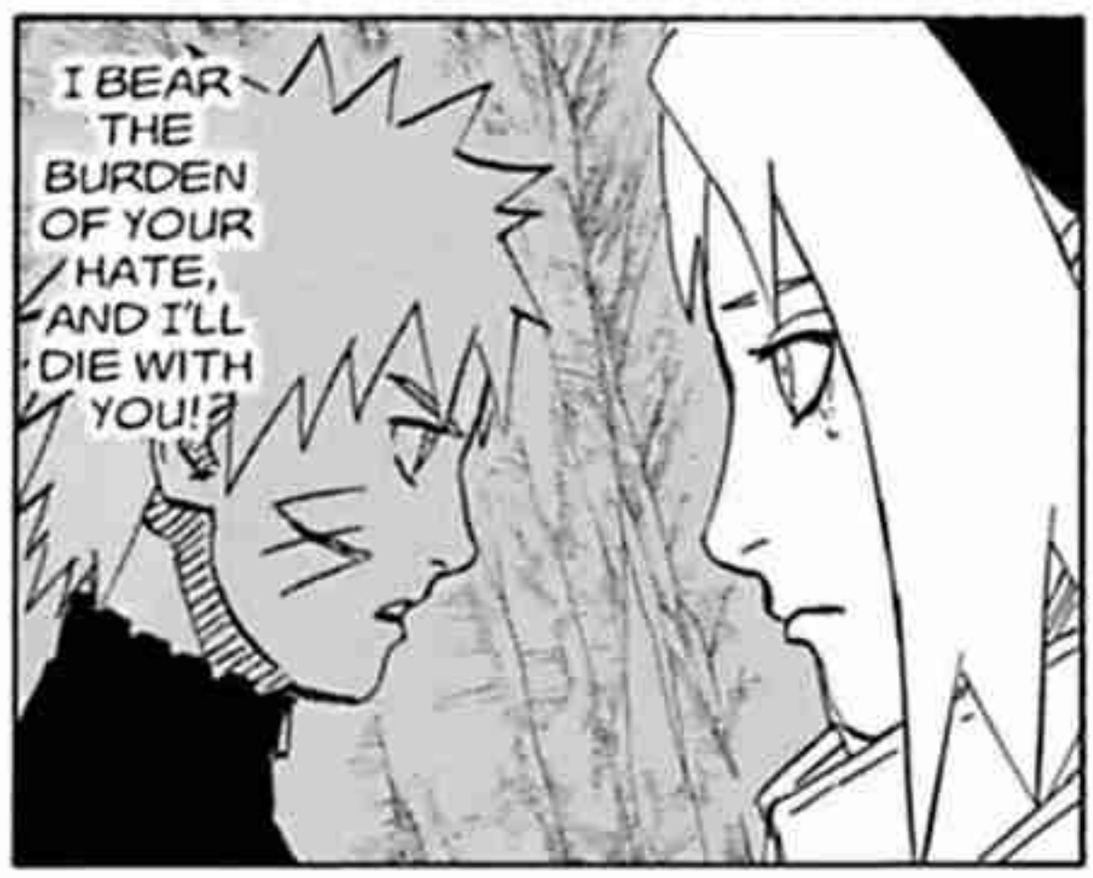
...

...

...SINCE IT'S CLEAR YOU STILL DON'T RESPECT ME!
NO PROBLEM...

YOU'LL BE THE FIRST ONE I KILL.
FINE...

...WHILE MY COURAGE AND DETERMINATION JUST WAVER...!!
NARUTO STANDS HERE WITH CLEAR RESOLVE, HIS MIND MADE UP...


I BEAR THE BURDEN OF YOUR HATE, AND I'LL DIE WITH YOU!

ALL I CAN DO...
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING. I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING.

I THOUGHT I WAS PAST ALL THIS. BUT STILL I HESITATE.
I'M A NINJA TOO, BUT I'M ALWAYS CRYING AND RELYING TOO MUCH ON NARUTO.
SKRK
SKRK

...IS TRUST THEM!!

WATCH OVER MY BODY, SAKURA...
BUT...
!

I'LL LEAVE SASUKE TO YOU, NARUTO...
...ALL RIGHT...

DON'T BOTHER, KAKASHI.
THAT JUTSU WON'T WORK ON ME.

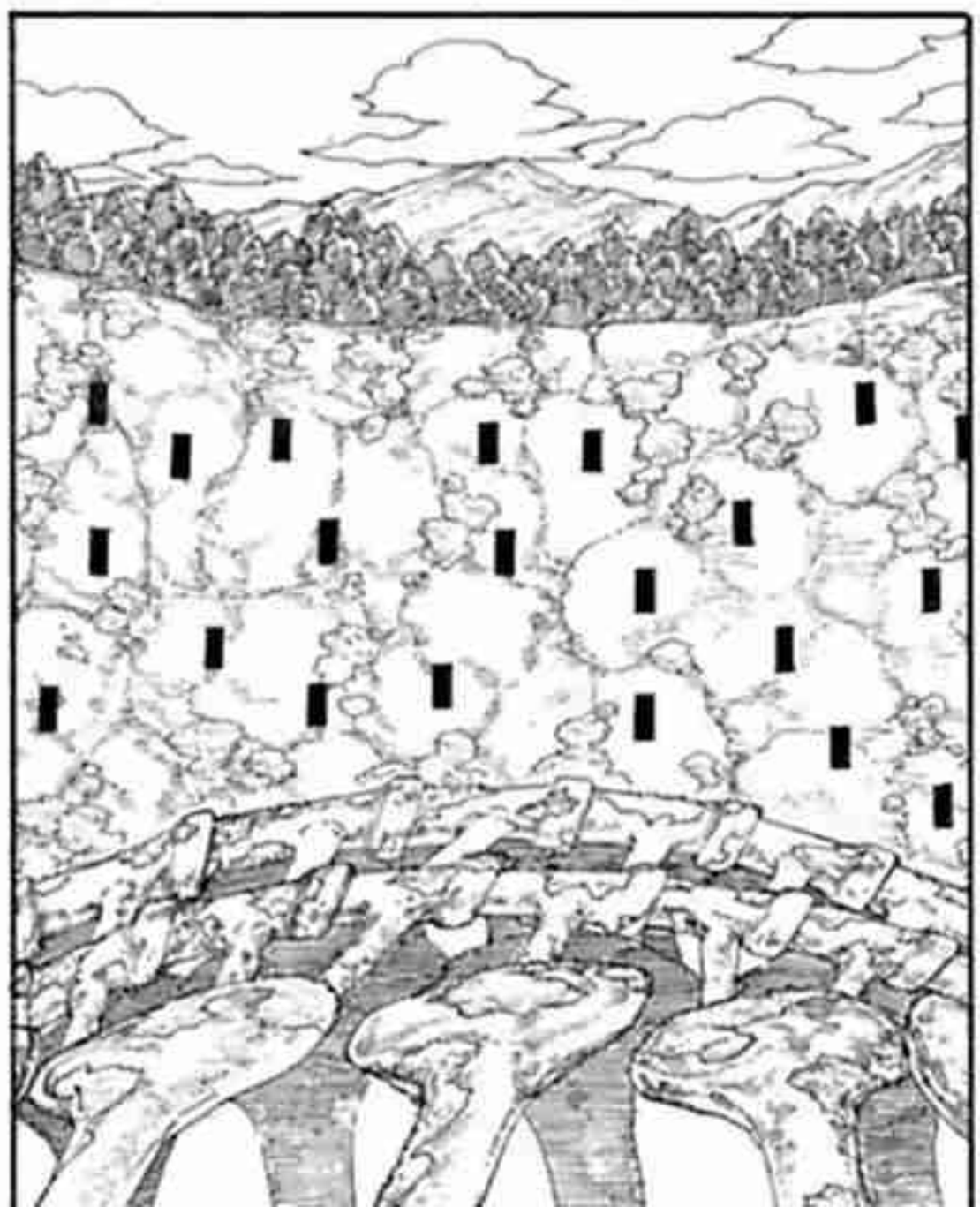
KAMUI!!
I'LL GET RID OF MADARA RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!!
FSSH...

LET'S GO, SASUKE.

...!

READ THIS WAY

NWOO...



TMP
SO WHAT DID YOU WANT TO DISCUSS?

...!
SHUP
...SO YOU'RE FINALLY READY...

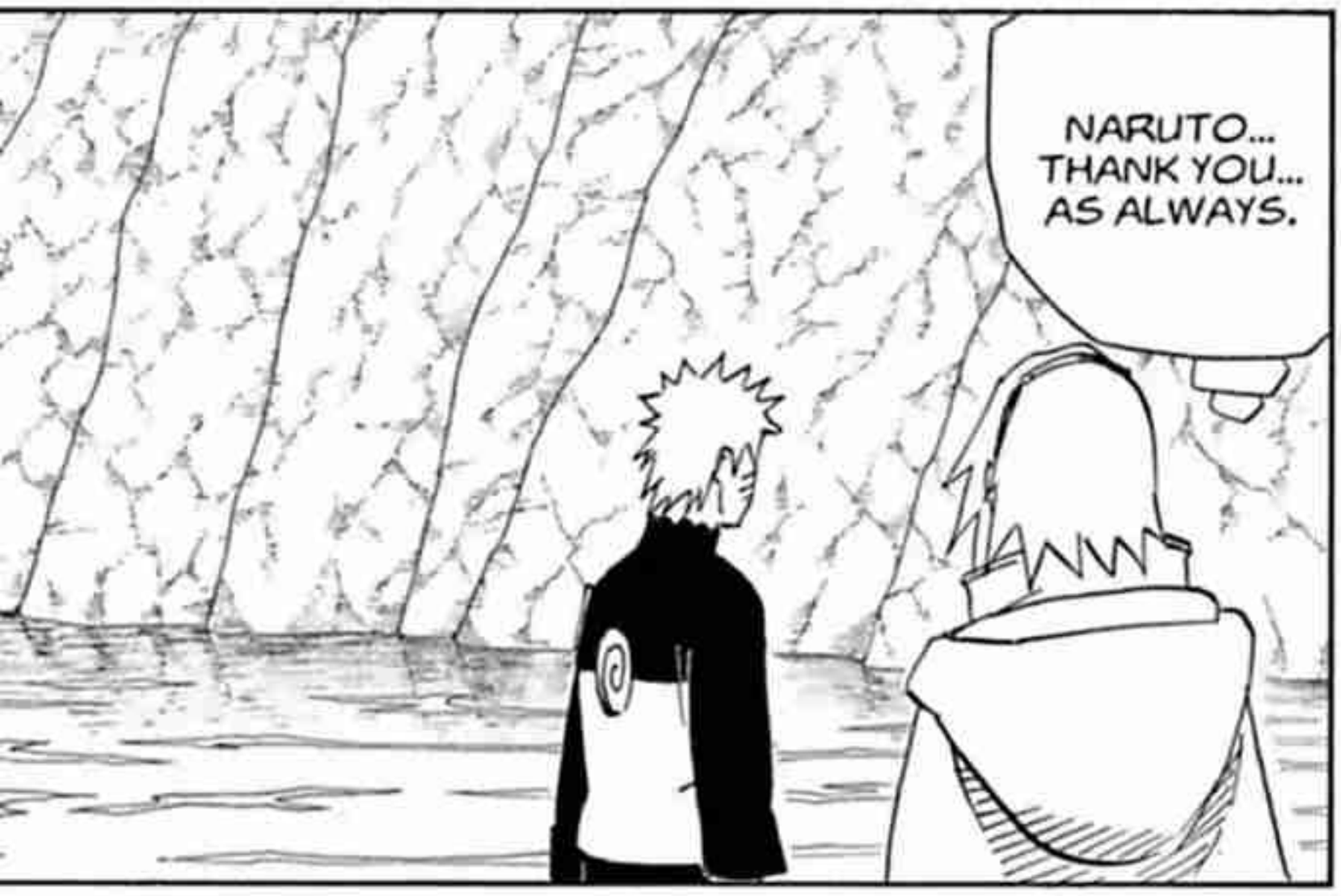
I WANT ITACHI'S EYES.
SHUP SHUP

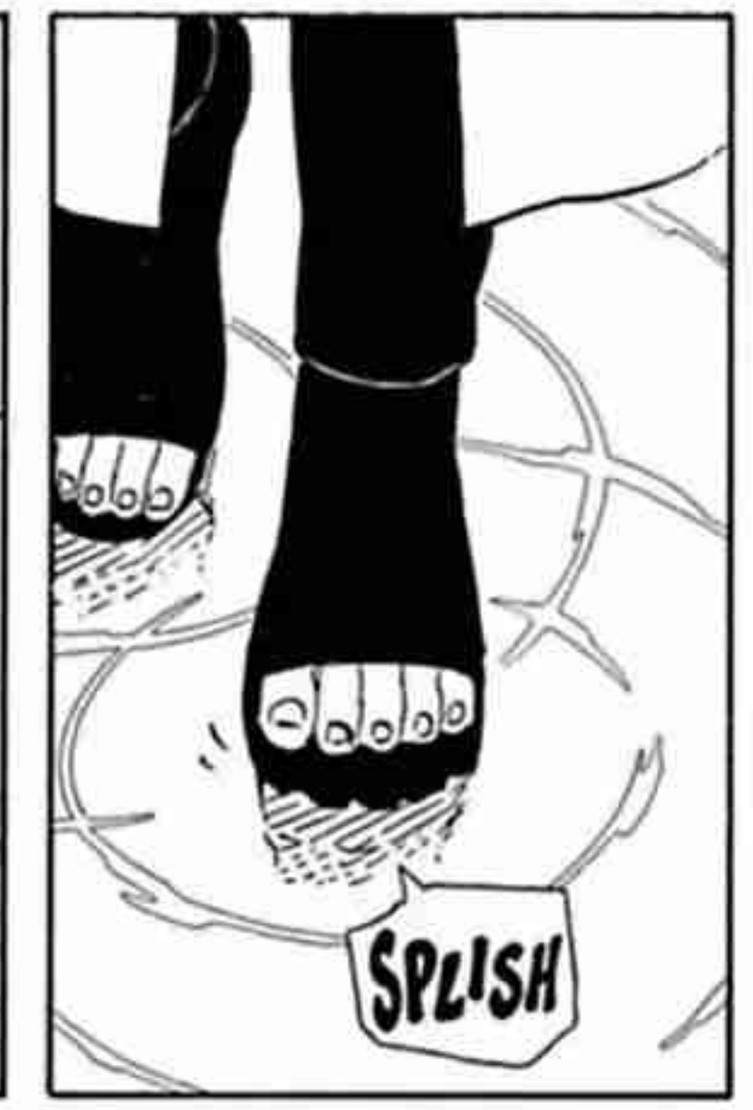
...WHAT'S BROUGHT THIS ON?
SUCH A SUDDEN... CHANGE IN TUNE...

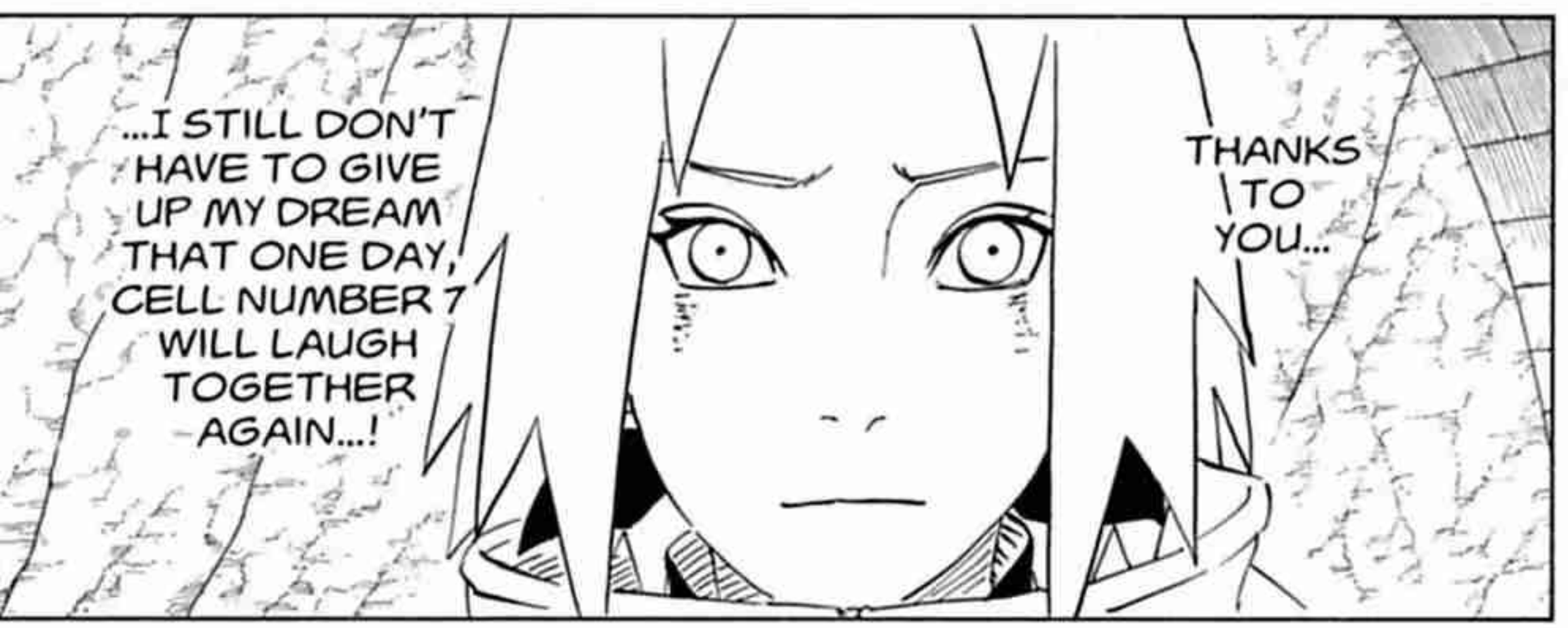
...YOU'VE OVERUSED THE SUSANO'O.
IMPLANT THEM IMMEDIATELY.
...IT'S GOOD TIMING.
I WAS AWARE THAT YOUR VISION WAS ALMOST GONE.

I'LL ERADICATE HIM COMPLETELY!

I WILL **CRUSH** NARUTO WITH ALL I'VE GOT!


NARUTO... THANK YOU... AS ALWAYS.


SPLISH


...I STILL DON'T HAVE TO GIVE UP MY DREAM THAT ONE DAY, CELL NUMBER 7 WILL LAUGH TOGETHER AGAIN...!
THANKS TO YOU...

SPLASH
GLUG
GLUG
NARUTO !

WHA?!
BOOF
BOOF
Wurk
HUH?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

!

FSH
WAP
KLAK
CHOK

WAAAH
YOU NEED TO ADMINISTER THE ANTIDOTE RIGHT AWAY, SAKURA.
THIS CHEEK WOUND!
YOU MEAN ...?!
MY POISON-DIPPED KUNAI DID THIS...?

侍
LET'S GO.

I'M AFRAID SO...

SO THAT'S UZUMAKI NARUTO, HUH...
...

BELIEVE ME, I AIN'T DOING ANYTHING NOW...
I'M TAKING YOU WITH US TO KONOHA... BEHAVE YOURSELF?
UGH... I FEEL SICK...
A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

LORD BEE!!

雷

TMP
WE'RE HOME!!
HAV'YA BEEN GETTING BY, CHEERFULLY, CARE-FREELY, MERRILY?
YO! LONG TIME NO SEE, OMOI, KARUI!

NOW, NOW! HE'S RETURNED ALIVE, SO IT'S ALL GOOD NOW!
'COURSE NOT!
DISAPPEARING SUDDENLY FROM THE VILLAGE LIKE THAT! DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH WE'VE WORRIED?!
WIKI WIKI

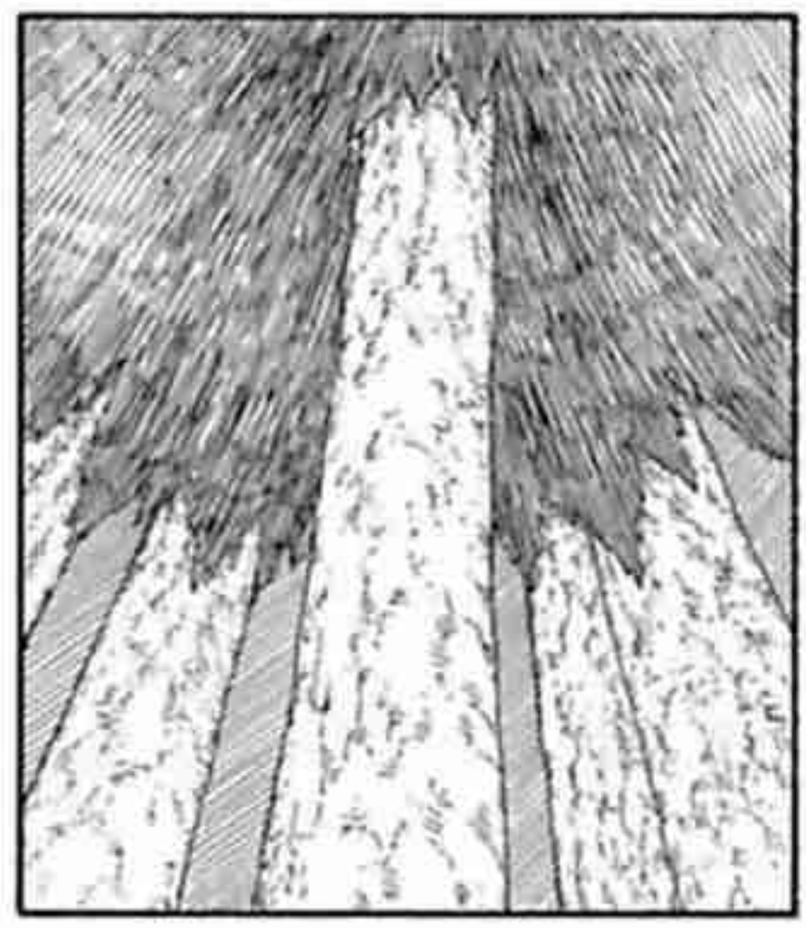
WHAT...?! NO DOWN-TIME...?
YOU KNOW THERE'S NO TIME TO DAWDLE... THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET EVEN HOTTER.

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU IMMEDIATELY UPON YOUR RETURN, BUT WE WISH TO HOLD COUNCIL RIGHT AWAY REGARDING WHAT TRANSPIRED AT THE GOKAGE SUMMIT.
GOOD WORK, ALL...

!
URR?
!
HUH? WHAT'S THAT?

COOL!
WHOA... SO THIS IS ONE OF THE SEVEN SWORDS-MEN'S BLADES, HUH...

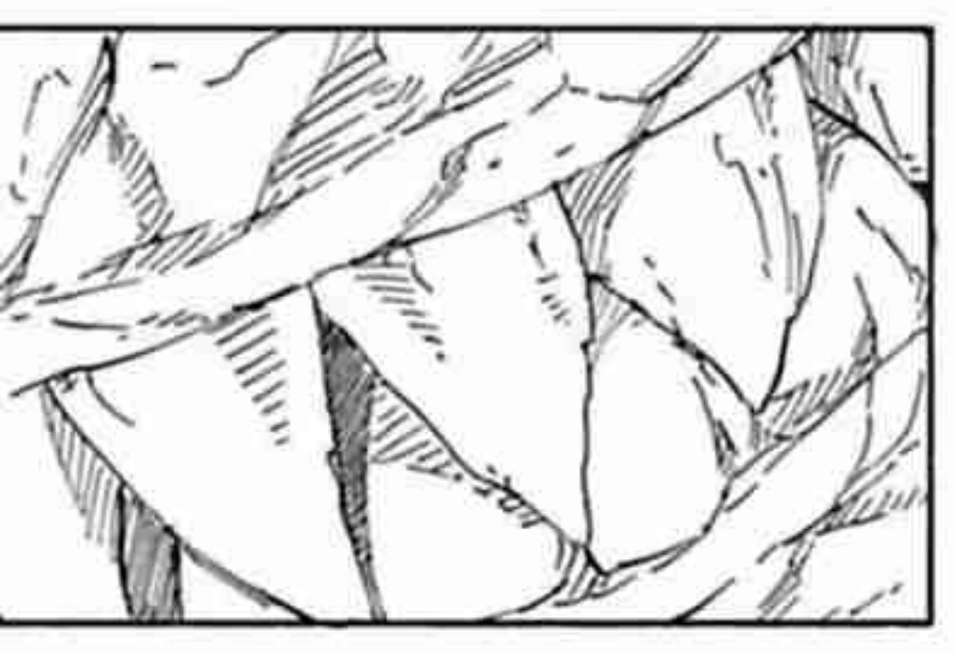
...THAT IT WON'T LEAVE MY SIDE...
...SO I'M GOING TO USE IT AS ONE OF MY WEAPONS FROM NOW ON!
鉄
A SPOIL OF WAR FROM MY BATTLE AGAINST ONE OF THE SEVEN NINJA SWORDS-MEN.
IT'S TAKEN SUCH A LIKING TO ME...



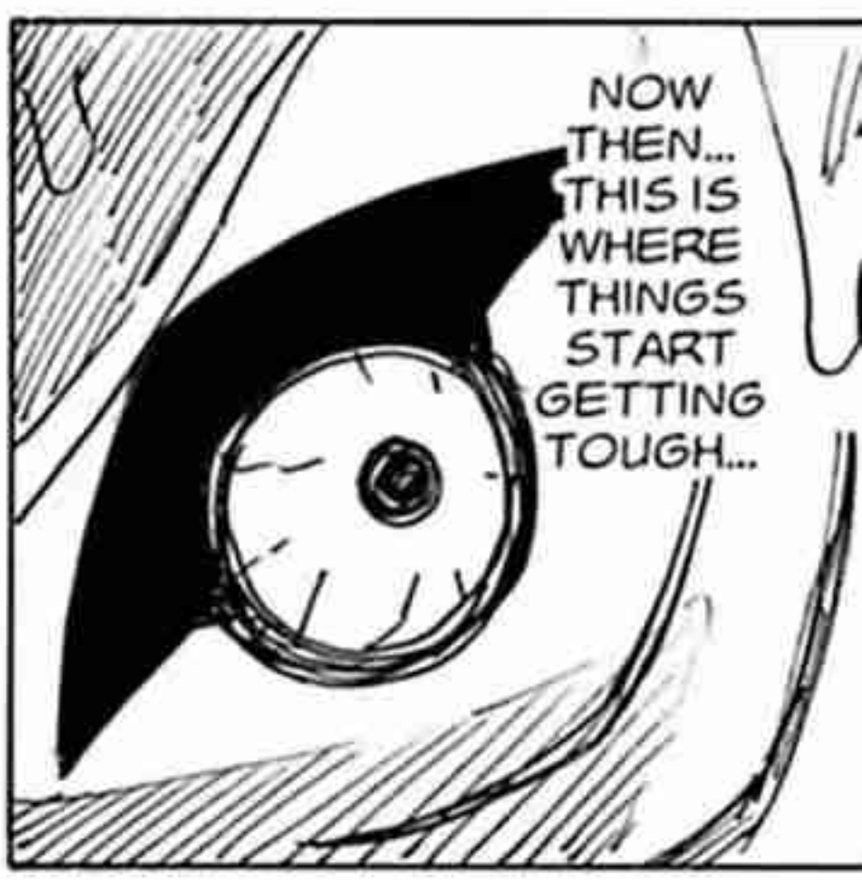
NOOO...

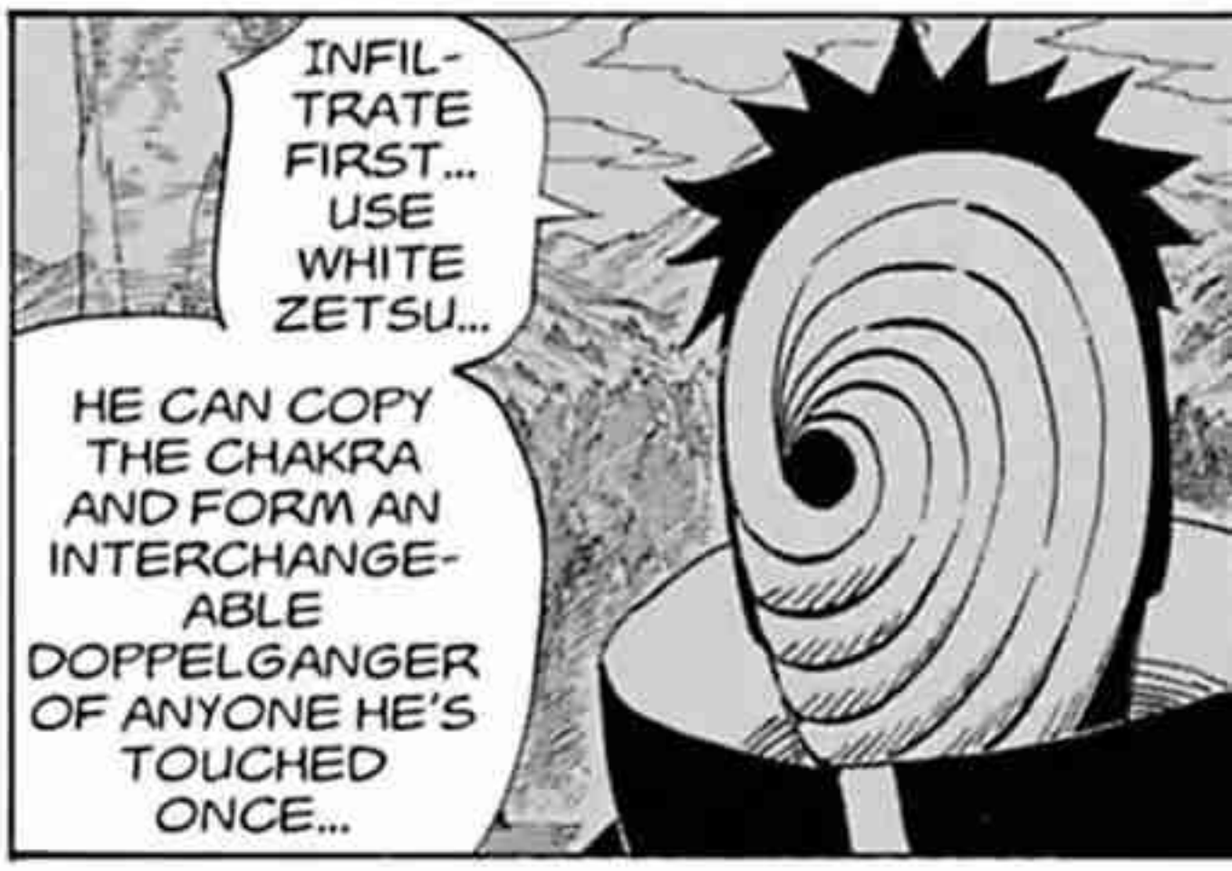
OH YEAH...? THEN...
YUP...

WELL? DID YOU RECORD THE BATTLE?
YUP...
EIGHT TAILS TOOK IT WITH HIM...
WHAT ABOUT SAME-HADA?



...IT WENT WELL... LEAVE IT TO KISAME!





THEIR SENSORY-TYPE SHINOBI HAVEN'T CAUGHT ON YET...

THOUGH THAT ENDED UP WORKING IN MY FAVOR.

IT WAS GOOD TO LET SAMEHADA TAKE A LIKING TO EIGHT TAILS, BUT I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD EVEN SHARE CHAKRA WITH HIM.

...YET YOU PULLED OFF THAT PERFORMANCE QUITE WELL...

YOU'RE WEAK...

BUT I WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO TAKE ON AN INFIL-TRATION MISSION...

IT WAS **HARD** CHANGING PLACES SMOOTHLY WITH KISAME INSIDE HIS WATER!

...SO THEY HAVE THE SAME CHAKRA SIGNATURE.

...NOT ENTIRELY SURPRISING. SINCE SAMEHADA TAKES IN KISAME'S CHAKRA AND USES IT FOR ENERGY...

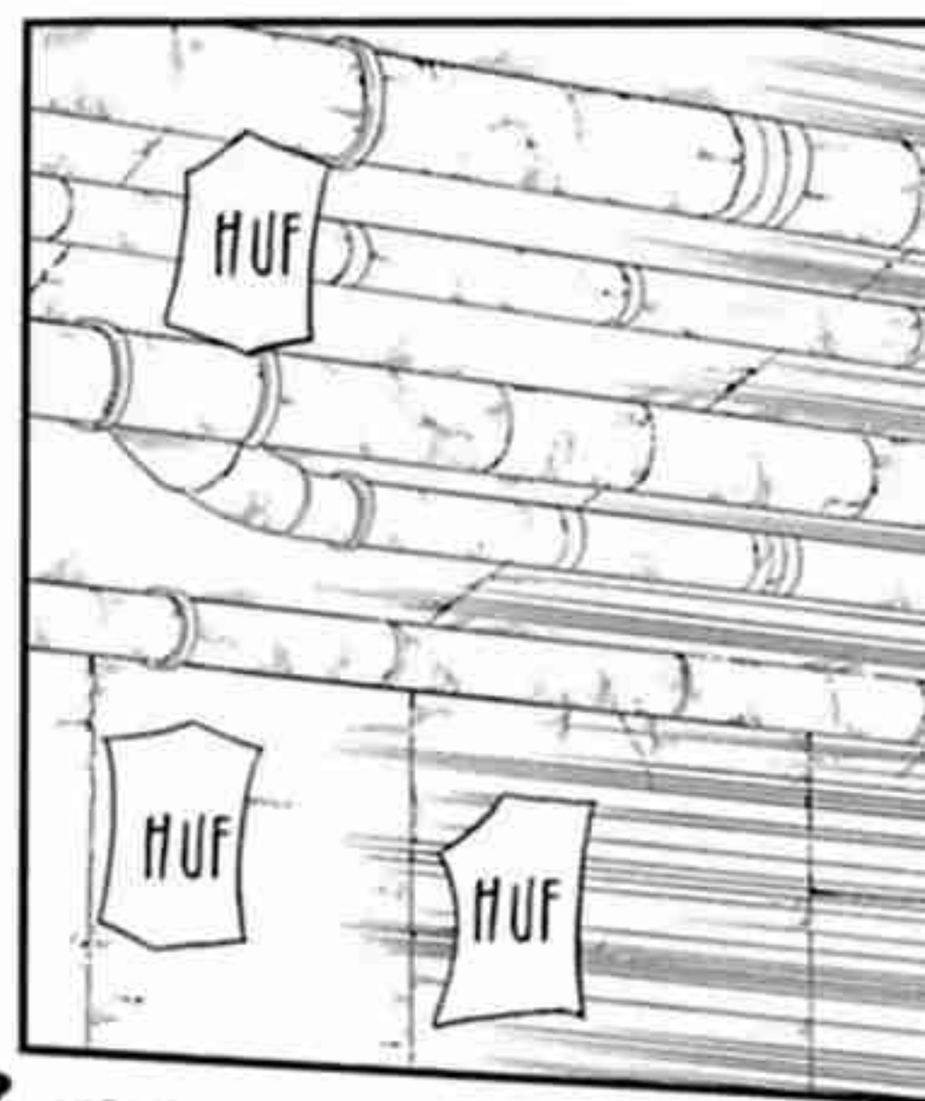
THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT THE ENEMY IS THINKING, TOO.

ZWOO...

I CAN UNDO THE BODY SUBSTI-TUTION JUTSU NOW, RIGHT...?

IT'S APPROACHING FEEDING TIME FOR US, TOO.
...C'MON, LET'S MERGE.

WHERE'D HE GO?!
HUF
HUF

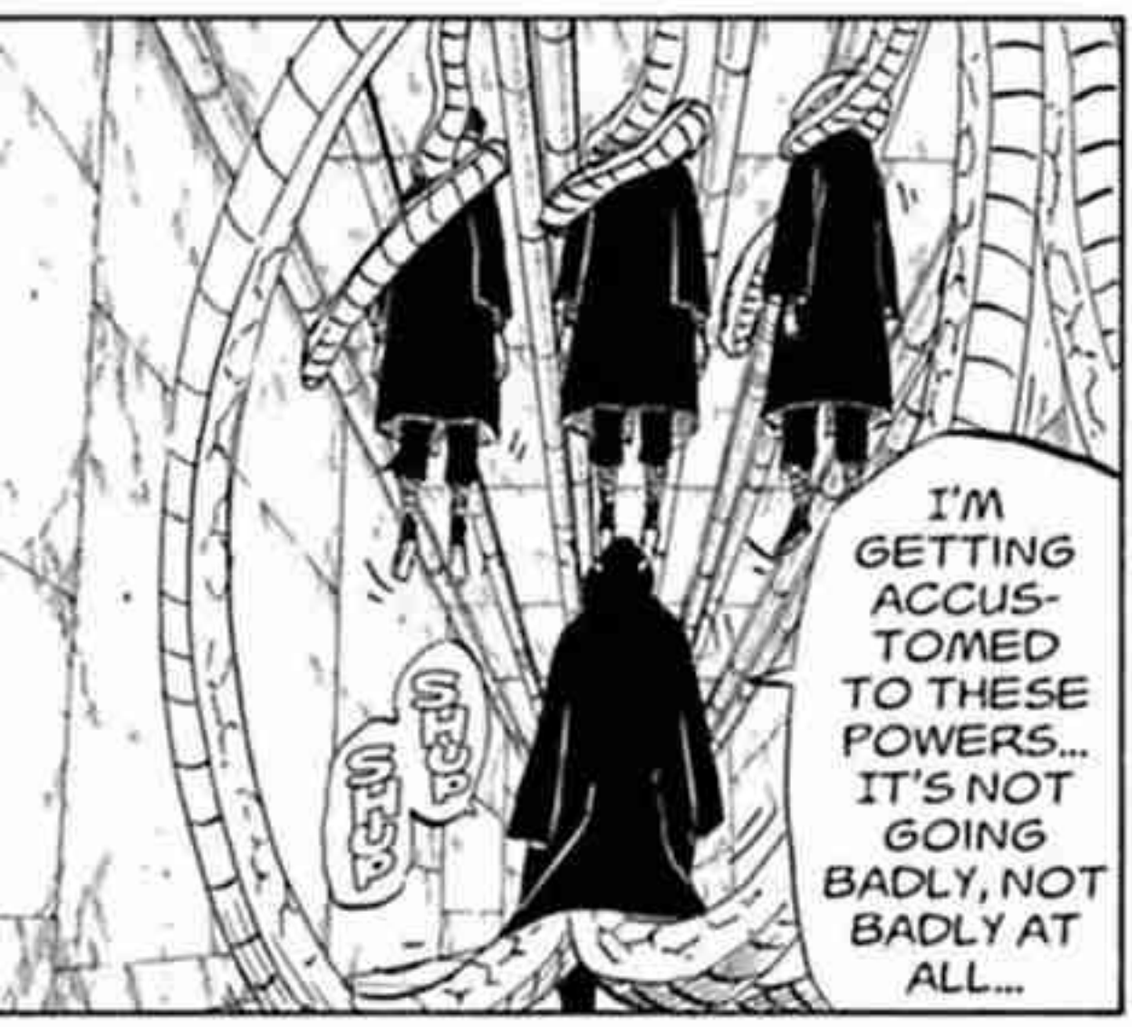

HUF
HUF
HUF

ARGH!!
!!
FWIIIP

FWOOOSH
FWOOO
FW

WOOSH

KRAK
KRAK
KRAK


I'M GETTING ACCUS-TOMED TO THESE POWERS... IT'S NOT GOING BADLY, NOT BADLY AT ALL...
SHUP
SHUP

ZWOOP...
TIME TO PUT MY PLAN INTO ACTION.

AN ALLIED SHINOBI FORCE...?

...PERHAPS WE'RE GIVING SHINOBI TOO MUCH POWER? THIS DECISION MIGHT COME BACK TO HAUNT US.

THE AKATSUKI POSSESS BIJU. THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE!

# Number 488: Every Shinobi Village

WATER DAIMYO... DO YOU REALLY DISTRUST YOUR OWN NATION'S SHINOBI THAT MUCH? WELL THEN, FIRST...

BATTERY STORES ARE ALMOST DEPLETED.

MAY I SUGGEST YOU DECIDE NOW, NOBLE SIRS...?

WIND ALSO CASTS YEA.

AS BEFORE.

EARTH, TOO.

LIGHTNING CASTS YEA.

...

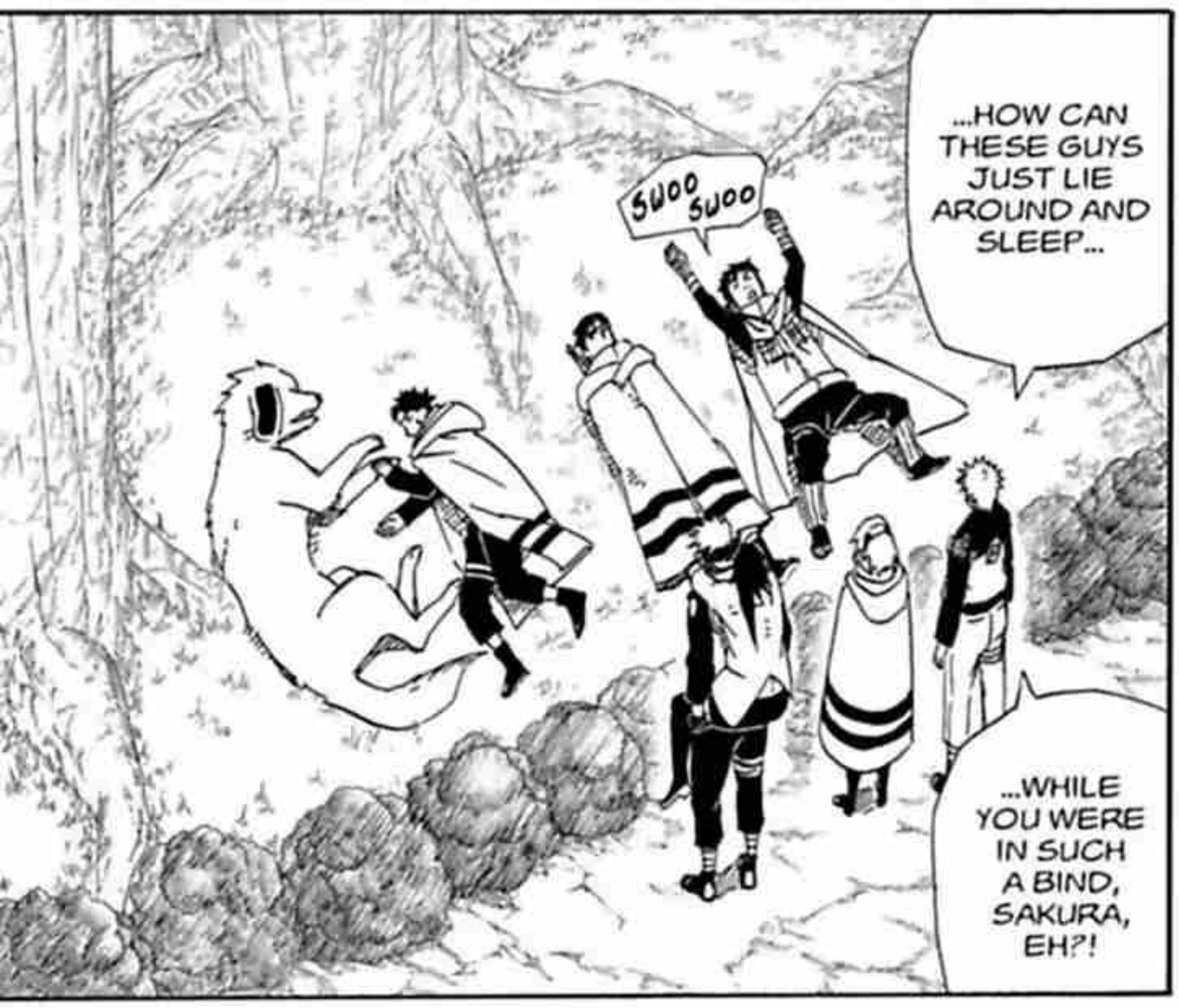
WATER ALSO CASTS YEA.
ALL RIGHT.

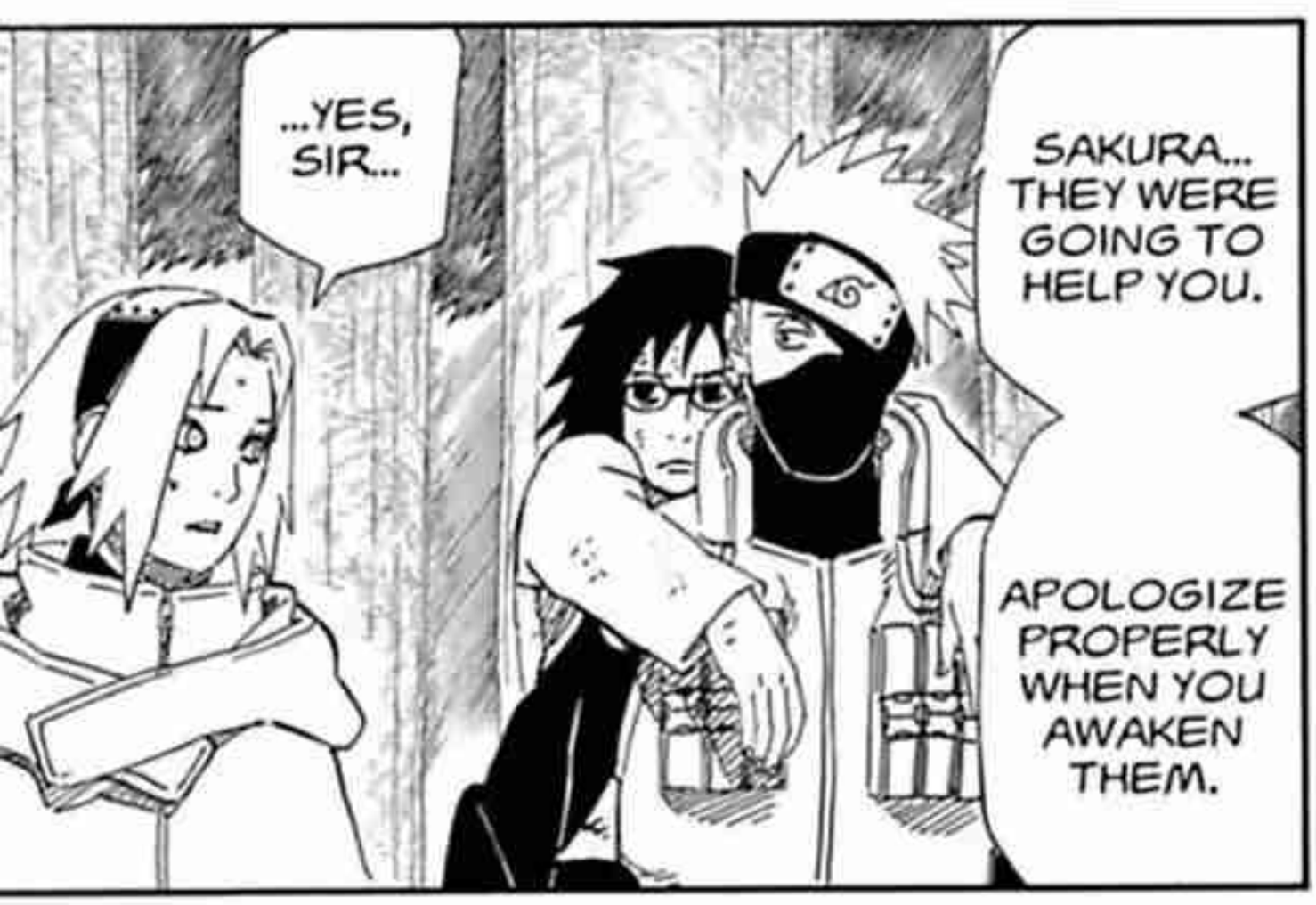
...

YES... FIRE ALSO CASTS YEA.
WHY NOT?

MONITORS ON RECORD.
I, TENGA, SHALL SERVE AS WITNESS.
FORMATION OF AN ALLIED SHINOBI FORCE IS RATIFIED.

WELL THEN...
IT WOULD BE GOOD TO NOTIFY KONOHA RIGHT AWAY.


SUOO SUOO
...HOW CAN THESE GUYS JUST LIE AROUND AND SLEEP...
...WHILE YOU WERE IN SUCH A BIND, SAKURA, EH?!


...YES, SIR...
SAKURA... THEY WERE GOING TO HELP YOU.
APOLOGIZE PROPERLY WHEN YOU AWAKEN THEM.

HA HA...
GRR...

...BE GENTLE WITH THEM, OK...
...NARUTO... THIS IS ALL MY FAULT...

UNH... GAH...
SHUP

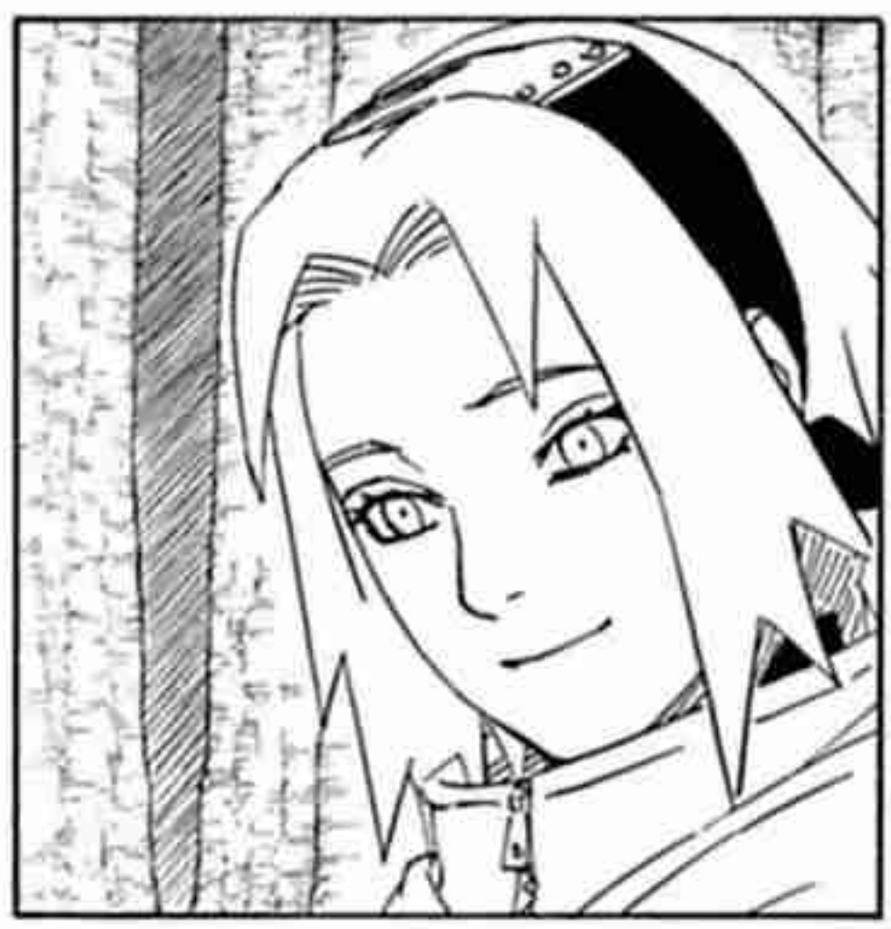
YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP, TOO?!!

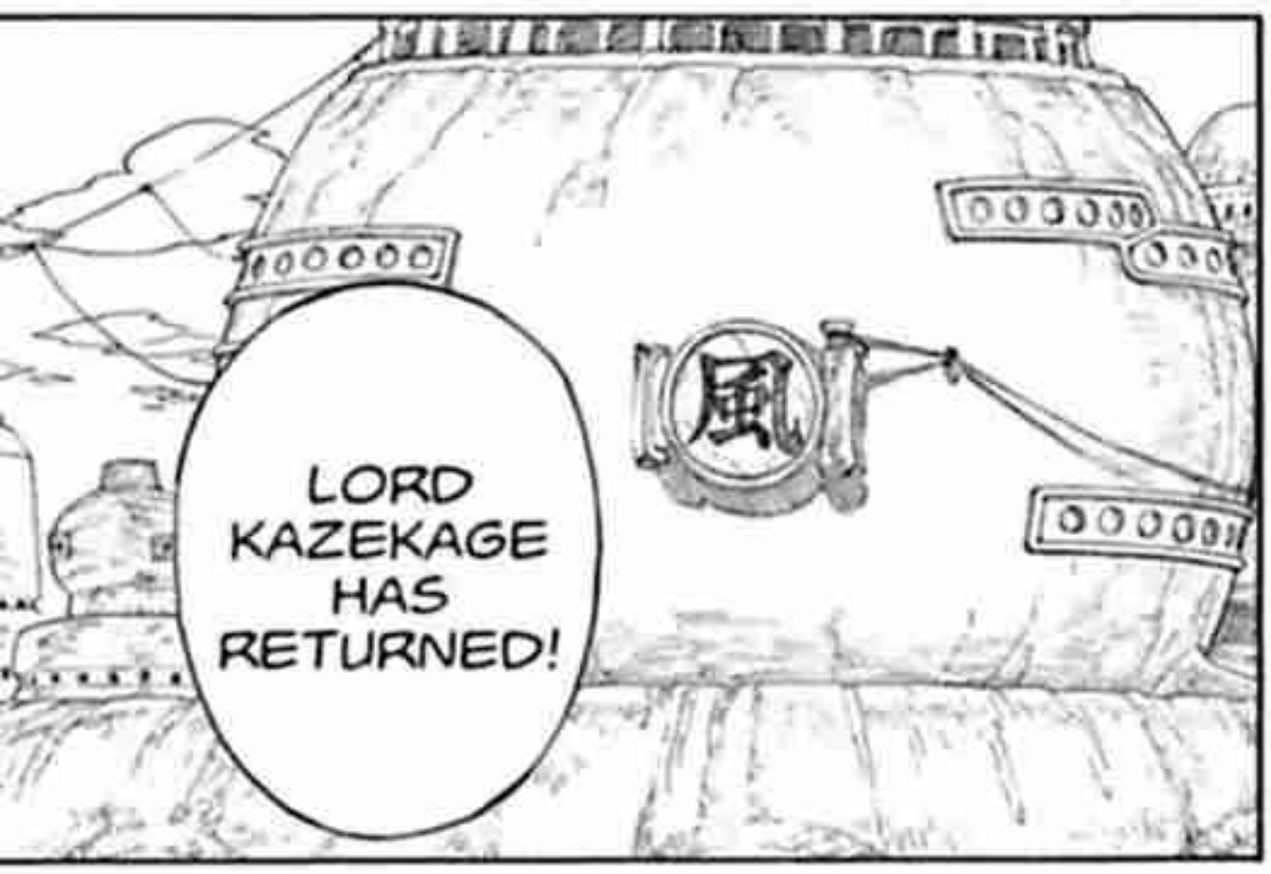
WUF...

UNH... I'M STILL SICK...

...WELL, ISN'T NARUTO'S CONDITION ALSO SORT OF YOUR... SAKURA, IS IT...? ...YOUR POISON'S FAULT?

HA HA!




風
LORD KAZEKAGE HAS RETURNED!

飛丸

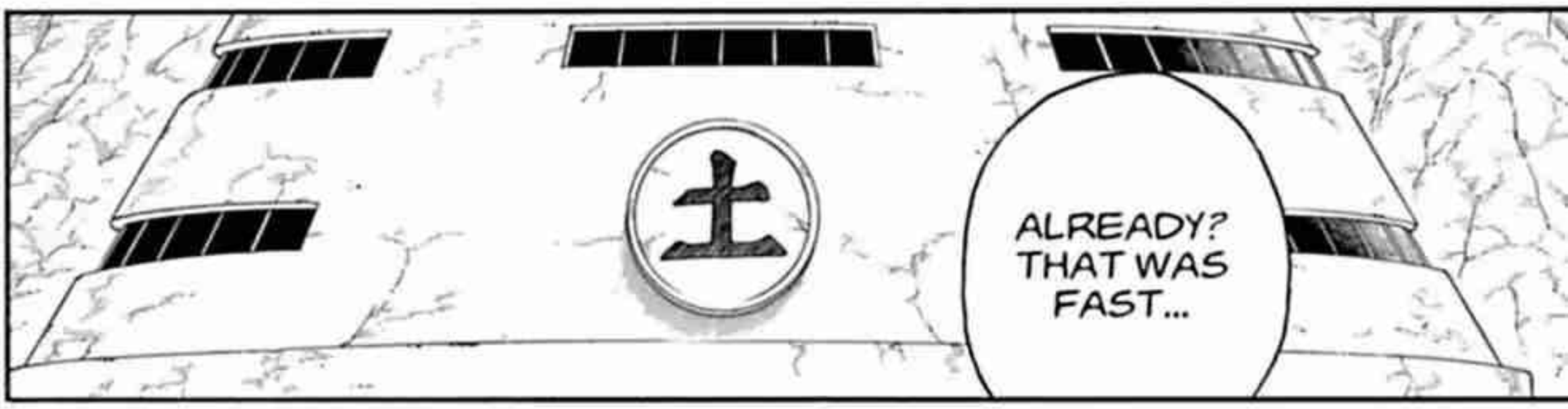
ANY WORD FROM THE DAIMYO?
YES, MA'AM!
DID YOU RECEIVE TOBIMARU'S MESSAGE?!

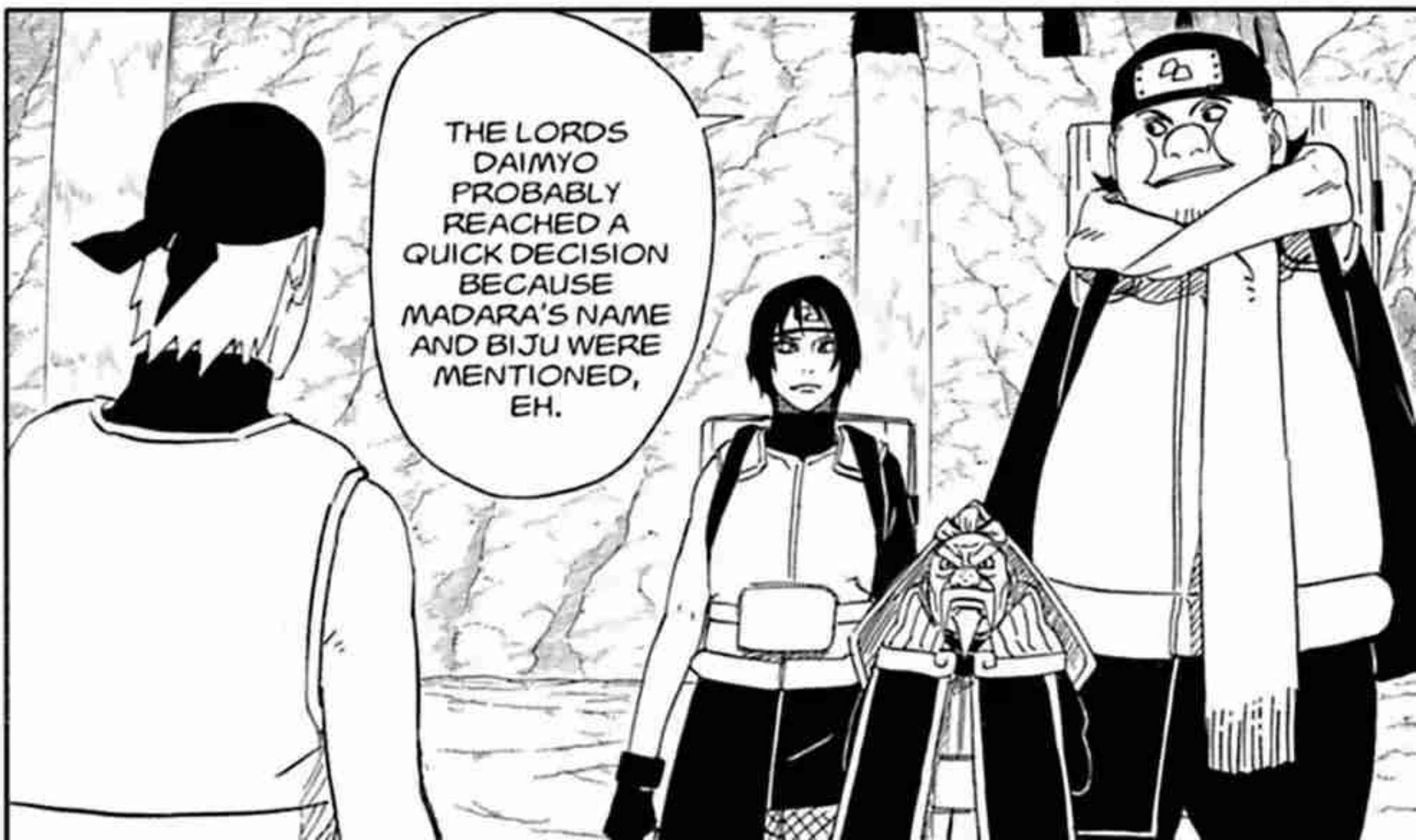
WE JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM OUR DAIMYO.

WELCOME HOME, LORD MIZUKAGE.
水

SHUP SHUP

LET'S HEAR IT. CARRY ON.



RRR
RR

WELL, DON'T TRY TO ACT LIKE YOU'RE THE ONLY HERO HERE.
AK
...

NOW, NOW... DON'T BE ANGRY, KIBA...
SHUP
HUMPH! I EVEN FOUND SASUKE LIKE YOU ASKED!
SHUP

NARUTO, YOU ARE TOO SIMPLEMINDED TO BE TRYING TO FORM SUCH COMPLEX THOUGHTS.
KIBA IS ACTUALLY COR-RECT.
HA HA...

KIBA! SHUT UP! IF YOU'RE A MAN, STOP RANTING!
HEY!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WENT ON A RANT, NARUTO!!

THAT'S HOW SASUKE GOT AWAY.
AND SAI TOLD NARUTO EVERYTHING.

BACK TO YOUR OLD SELF, NARUTO!
A-HA HA HA!

I WASN'T BEING NICE!!!!
GGRRR
I THANK YOU.
SAI!! YOU'RE TOO, UM, MEAN TO BE THAT SMILEY!!
HU
NH?
WHAT ?!

HIS CHAKRA'S... SO...

...NARUTO... HE'S THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF SASUKE...

KIBA!
ONCE A FOOL, ALWAYS A FOOL!
FINALLY, PROOF HE HASN'T REALLY GROWN UP AT ALL!

...BRIGHT AND WARM...

SO DARK...! IT'S LIKE...
WHAT?! ...DEEP INSIDE HIM... A HIDDEN CHAKRA?!!

!!

SAI, WHY DON'T YOU TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENED.

!
TMP

...HE HAS PASSED AWAY?

THE VERY SAME REASON THE CURSE MARK OUR LORD DANZO PLACED ON US HAS VANISHED...
IT IS AS YOU, MY SENIORS, ALREADY SUSPECT...

BLACK OPS, MEMBERS OF THE FOUNDA-TION.
WHO ARE THEY?

...

YES...!
AND THERE-FORE... I WAS THINKING OF PROPOSING TO YOU A DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE FOUNDATION...
...HATAKE KAKASHI.
...WITH THE NEW HOKAGE... WHO IS HERE...

...!

LADY TSUNADE !!

SHIZUNE ...
... DON'T TELL ME...

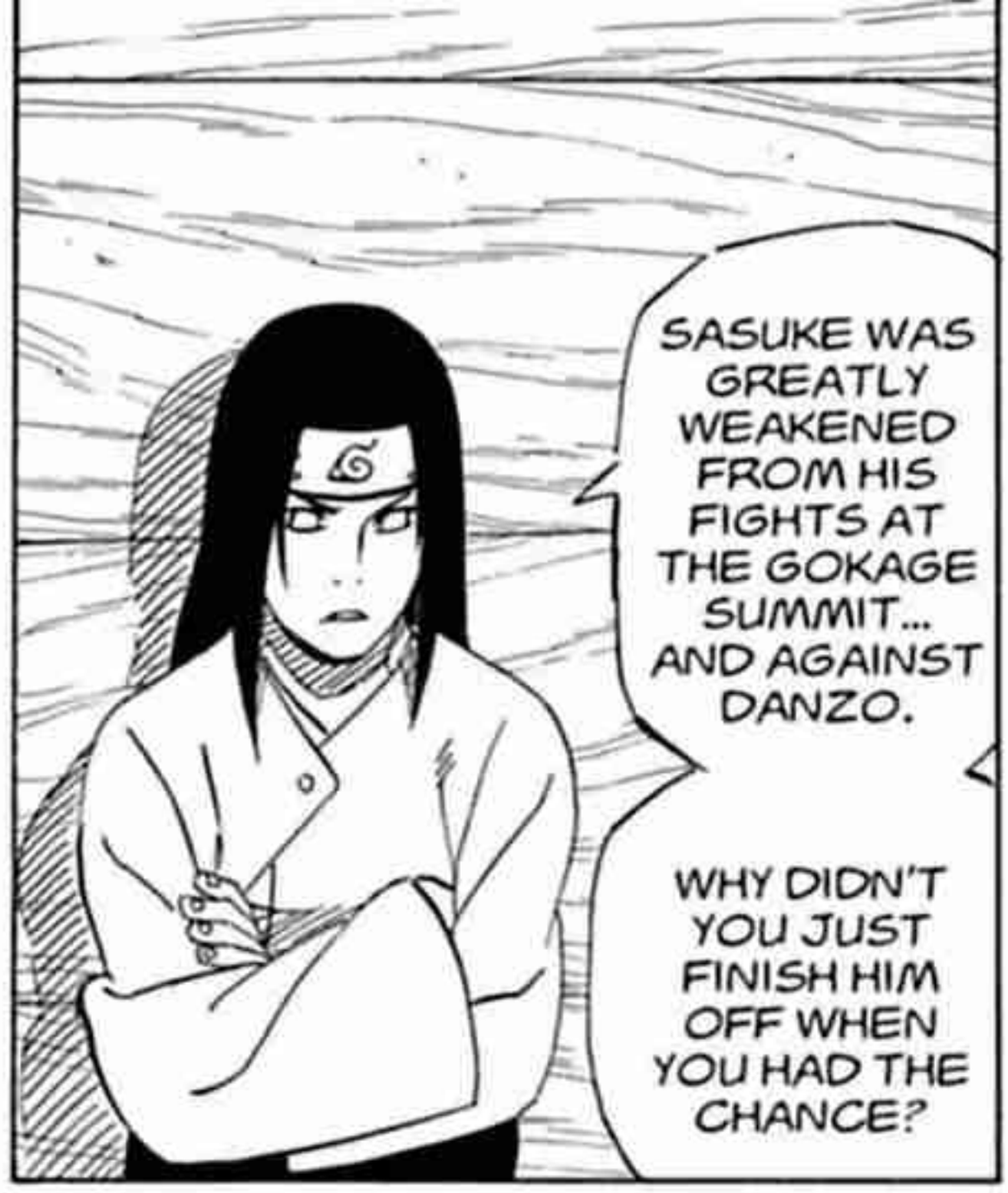
KLUNK
WHAT'S HAPPENED ?!
KLUNK
医

THIS PROBLEM IS BIG. IT INVOLVES THE WHOLE VILLAGE.

LIKE TENTEN SAYS, NARUTO... WE CAN'T ALWAYS LET YOU DO WHAT YOU WANT ALL BY YOURSELF.

DID YOU HONESTLY THINK WE WOULD GO ALONG WITH THAT?!

YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT SASUKE BY YOURSELF?!


SASUKE WAS GREATLY WEAKENED FROM HIS FIGHTS AT THE GOKAGE SUMMIT... AND AGAINST DANZO.
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST FINISH HIM OFF WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE?

NOPE... I'M NOT GONNA PROTECT SASUKE...

NARUTO... YOU'RE REAL STRONG. YOU'RE THE HERO THAT TOOK DOWN PAIN, REMEMBER?!
THAT'S STILL NO EXCUSE FOR LETTING HIM GET AWAY!
YOU OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO...

MADARA WAS THERE, TOO!
IT WOULDN'T HAVE GONE THAT EASILY... BESIDES WHICH...

INSIDE HIM IS...

YOU CAN'T BEAT SASUKE JUST BY BEING STRONG...
THAT'S NOT THE POINT...
NOW I KNOW...

ONLY ME... THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY.
YOU GUYS CAN'T FIGHT SASUKE, OK?
?!

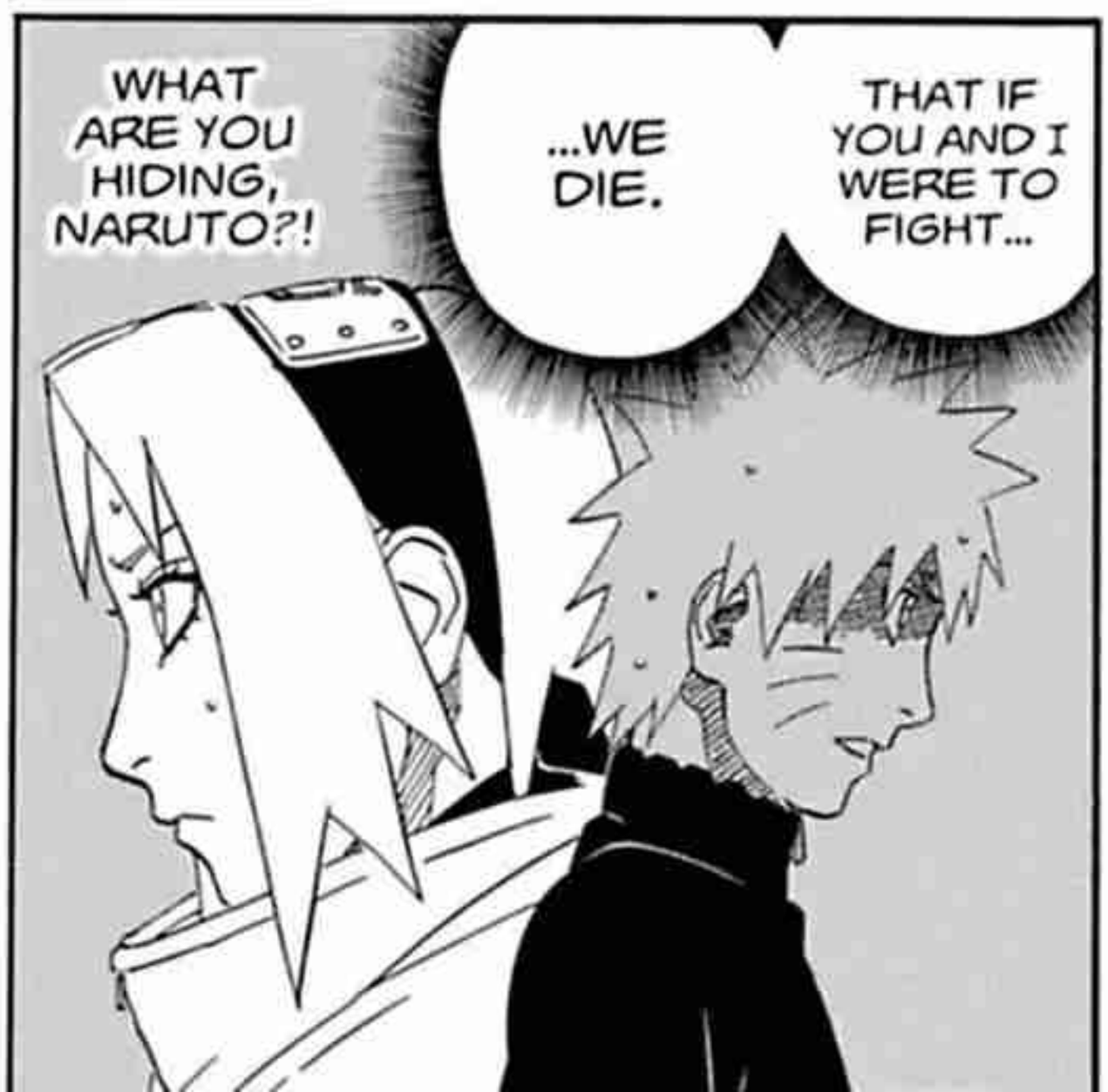
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

...I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING WHEN I CAN.

WHAT IN THE WORLD WENT DOWN? YOU NEED TO EXPLAIN, MAN.

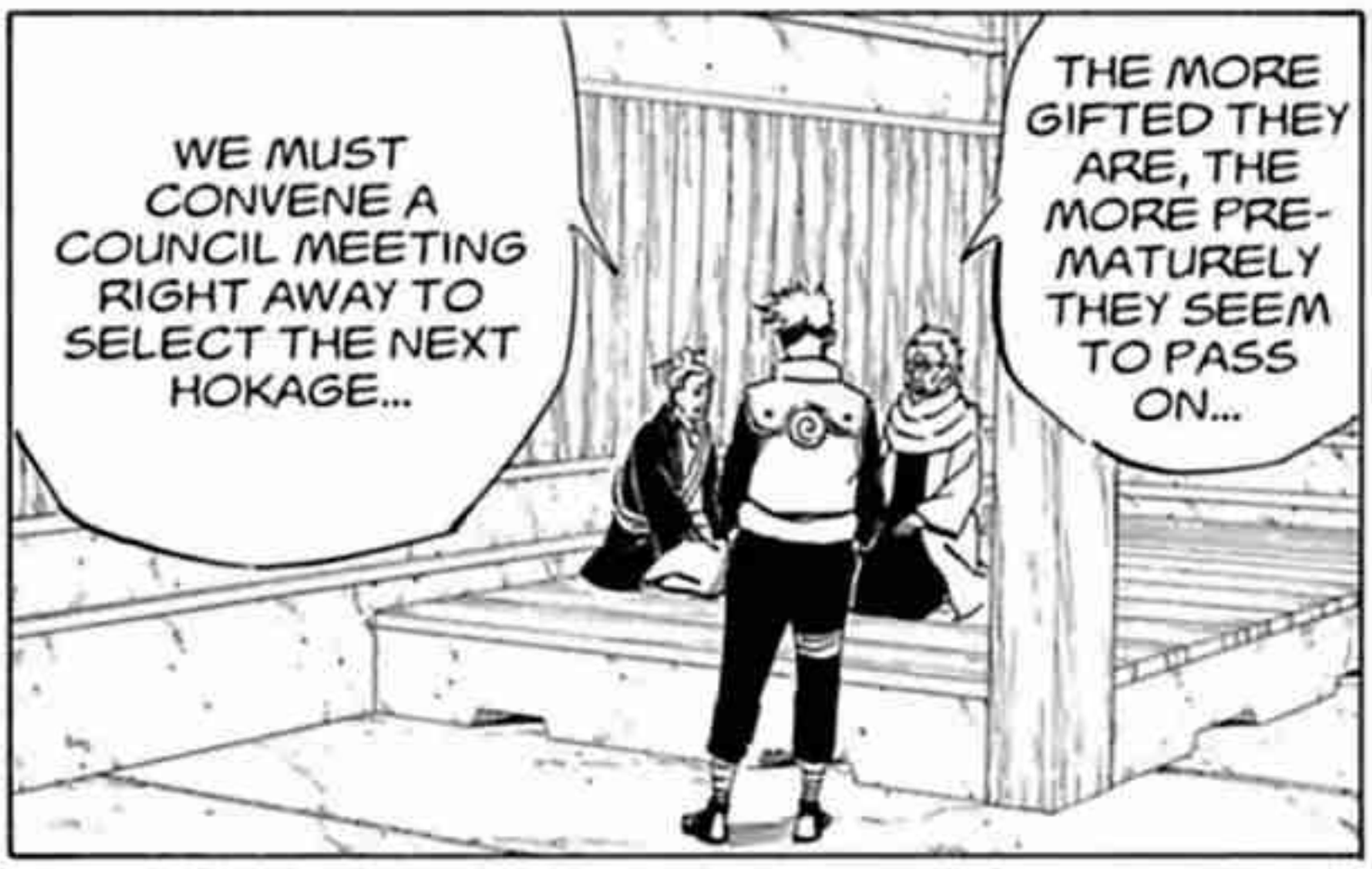
!

ANYWAYS! I'M STARVING. I'M GOING TO ICHIRAKU!


WHAT ARE YOU HIDING, NARUTO?!
...WE DIE.
THAT IF YOU AND I WERE TO FIGHT...

SHUP

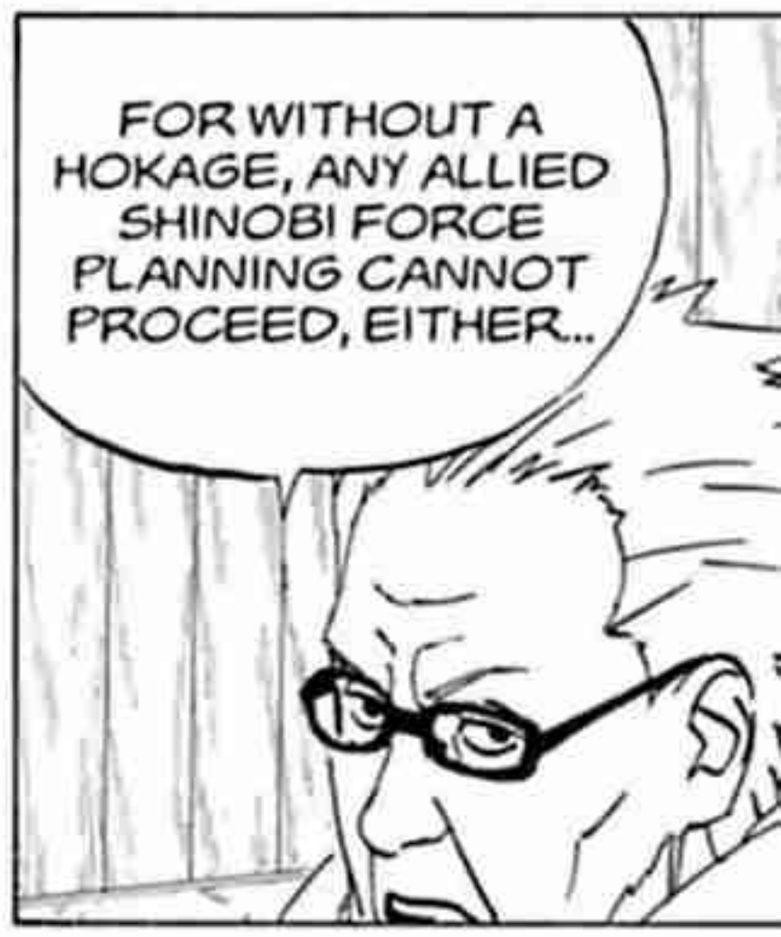
SHUP


WE MUST CONVENE A COUNCIL MEETING RIGHT AWAY TO SELECT THE NEXT HOKAGE...
THE MORE GIFTED THEY ARE, THE MORE PREMATURELY THEY SEEM TO PASS ON...

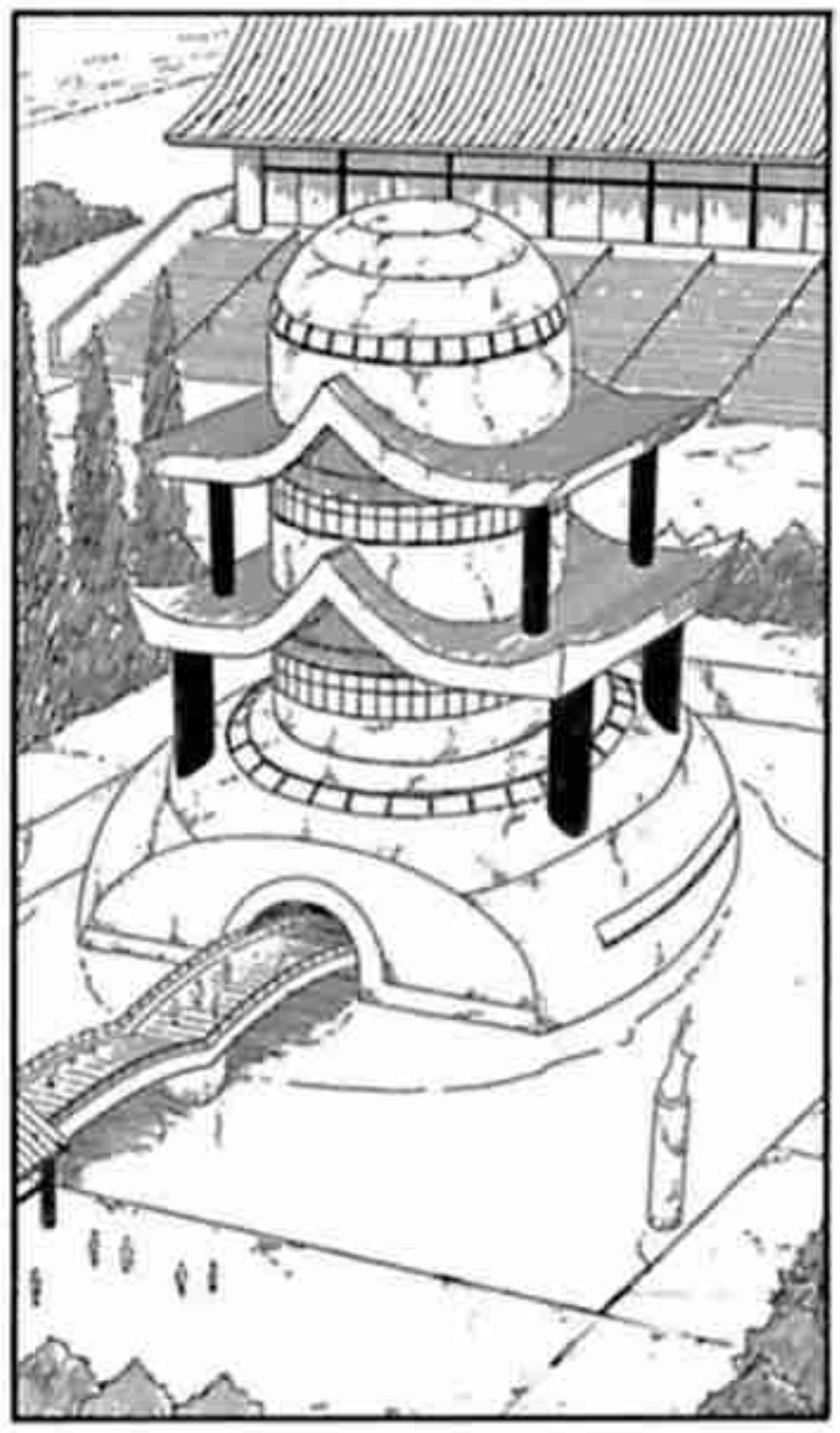
NOW EVEN DANZO...

I AM PREPARED.

ESPECIALLY SINCE OUR ALLY SAND HAS ALSO RECOMMENDED YOU.
IT CANNOT BE HELPED... WE SHALL BE PUTTING FORTH YOUR NAME AS CANDIDATE.


FOR WITHOUT A HOKAGE, ANY ALLIED SHINOBI FORCE PLANNING CANNOT PROCEED, EITHER...

火
VERY WELL. HATAKE KAKASHI, I HEREBY NAME YOU...



PLEASE EXCUSE ME!!
TMP
!

...
UNH UNH

THIS IS OF EQUAL IMPORT!!

PAT...
PIT

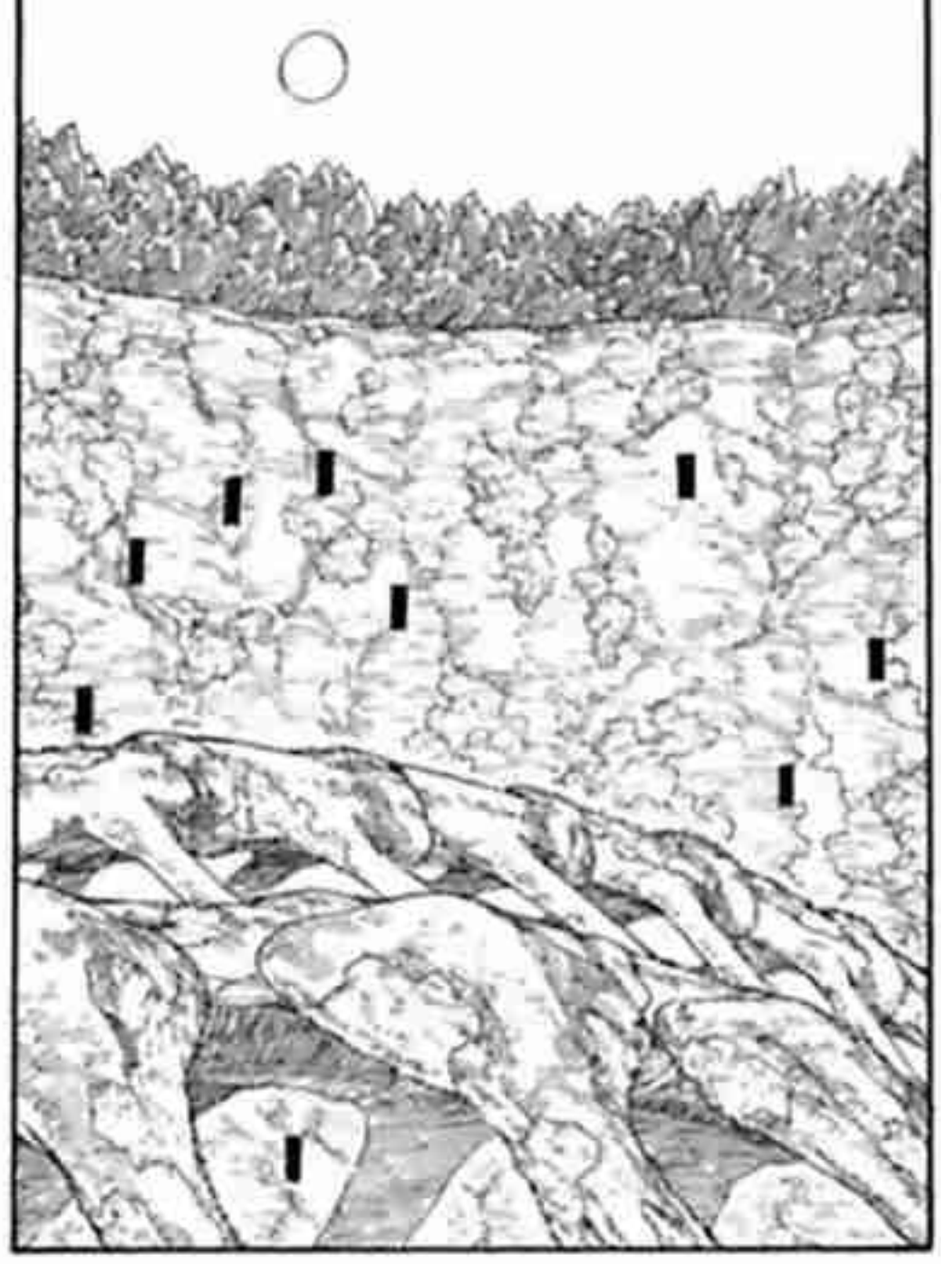
WE'RE IN THE MIDST OF AN IMPORTANT MEETING!
WHAT IS IT?!

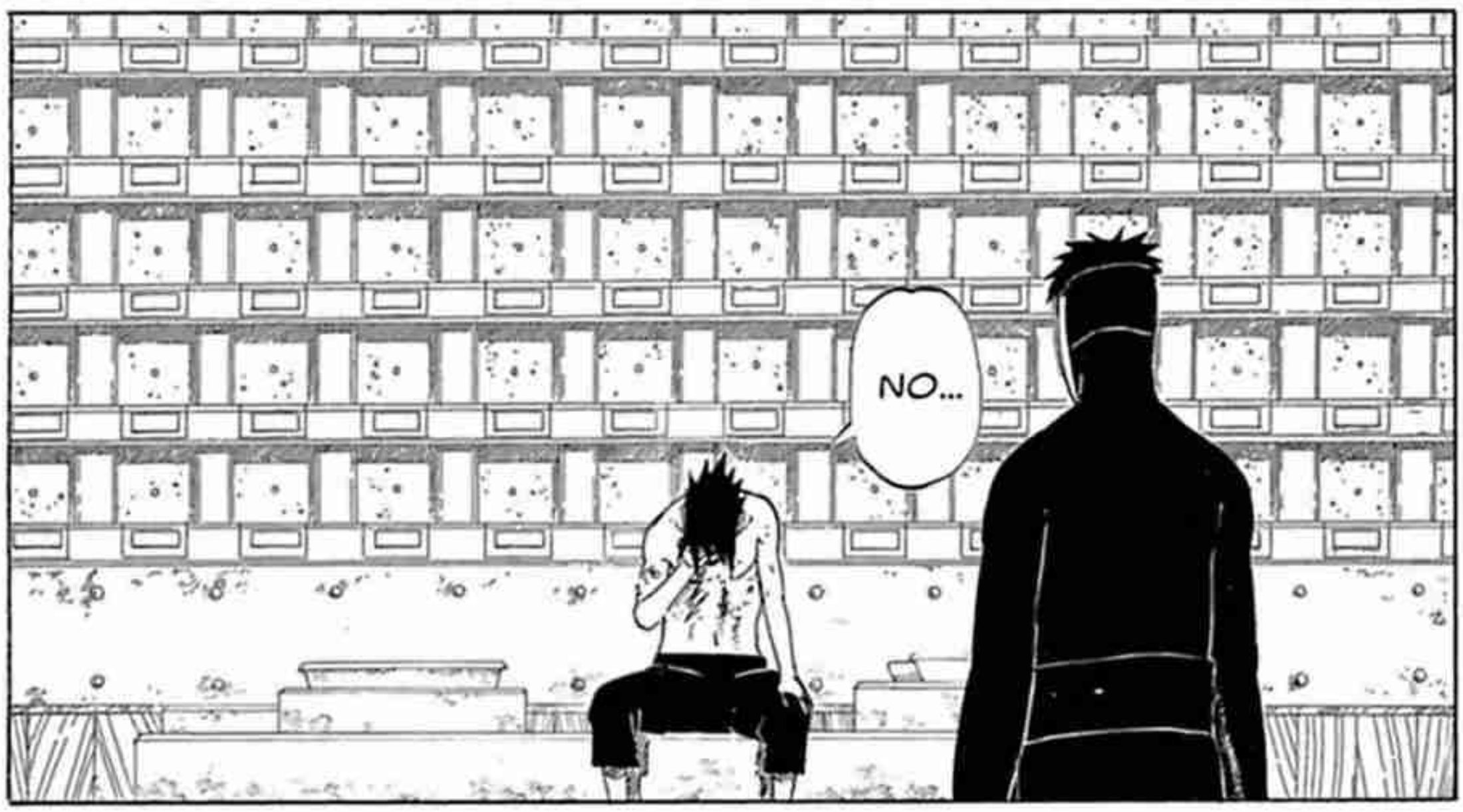
WHAM

...

LADY TSUNADE ...!!

DOES IT HURT?
YOU MUST REST.
YOU MUST BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THE MANGEKYO. IT TAKES TIME...



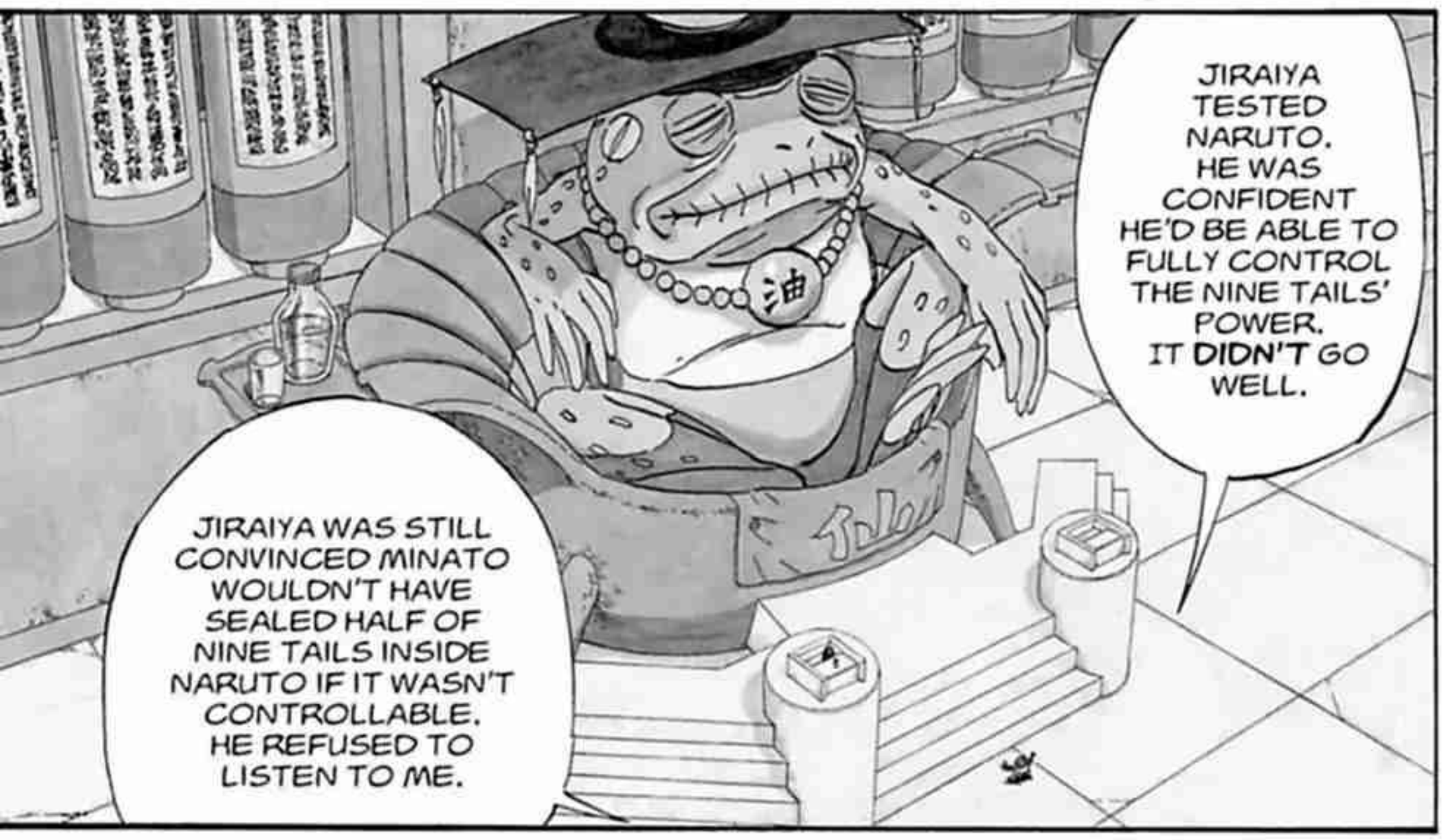

NO...

I HAVE ALREADY BECOME STRONGER...!
THEY ACTUALLY FIT QUITE NICELY... I ALREADY FEEL ITACHI'S OCULAR POWER.

飛丸

GREAT LORD ELDER...! ARE YA SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT THING?
BEFORE HE DIED, JIRAIYA TOLD ME TO GO WAIT INSIDE NARUTO.

THUD-THUD-THUD-THUD
Number 489:
Facing a Great Ninja War...!!


JIRAIYA TESTED NARUTO. HE WAS CONFIDENT HE'D BE ABLE TO FULLY CONTROL THE NINE TAILS' POWER. IT DIDN'T GO WELL.
JIRAIYA WAS STILL CONVINCED MINATO WOULDN'T HAVE SEALED HALF OF NINE TAILS INSIDE NARUTO IF IT WASN'T CONTROLLABLE. HE REFUSED TO LISTEN TO ME.

SUMMON UZUMAKI NARUTO HERE.
I SHALL PEER INTO HIS FUTURE AND CHECK FOR ANY PROPHECIES... ALL DECISIONS WILL HINGE ON WHAT I FIND.

...

WOULD IT REALLY BE SAFE TA GIVE 'IM TA NARUTO? WHAT THINK YE?
GREAT LORD ELDER... GAMATORA IS TH' KEY TA NARUTO'S TETRAGRAM SEAL.

# Number 489: Facing a Great Ninja War...!!

MARCHING TOWARDS THE FINAL BATTLE WITH AKATSUKI!

WE ARE THE JOINT SHINOBI ARMY.

NARUTO -ナルト-

BY JAPFLAP

# NARUTO

THEN SASUKE TOOK OVER AND ALSO JUST ORDERED POOR WEAK ME AROUND. HIS DEMANDS WERE UNREASONABLE.
OROCHI-MARU FORCED ME INTO CRUEL, HARSH LABOR...
IN THE END HE JUST TREATED ME LIKE TRASH...!
BRRR
BRRR

情報部

(INTEL)

GIVE US INTEL ON AKATSUKI, SASUKE, AND KABUTO!
I DIDN'T ASK YOU FOR YOUR LIFE STORY...

WAAH! I'M A VICTIM, TOO!!
I SEE... IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO HARD...

IF YOU WANT TO INTERROGATE ME, BRING ME A KATSUDON, EH!
FIRST OF ALL, I'M FAMISHED!

FINE... BUT YOU NEED TO MEET MY TERMS, THEN.
BUH!
WUMP
TERMS?!

AND YOU, STOP SYMPATHIZING.
S-SORRY.

CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP

THIS ISN'T ENOUGH!

GOODNESS, SLOW DOWN!

MY CHAKRA LEVEL HASN'T RETURNED TO NORMAL YET!! BRING ME MORE FOOD! I'LL TURN BACK INTO AN OLD HAG AS SOON AS I RELAX!!

OINK?

!!

GRRRRRR...

GROWL

...

I'LL GO REQUISITION MORE, SO PLEASE, JUST TAKE A SHORT BREAK...

WE'VE COMPLETELY DEPLETED THE HOKAGE QUARTER'S SUPPLY STORES...

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?! YOU CANNOT HAVE HIM!!

WUP !!

N-NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT!!

IT'S... NOT REALLY IN MY NATURE...

I WAS DANGER-OUSLY CLOSE TO BECOMING HOKAGE...

...AND GIVEN THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, I THINK IT BEST THAT YOU, LADY TSUNADE, WHO HAS GREAT PULL, STAY ON AS HOKAGE.

OH, KAKASHI...!

HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU LOOKING WELL.

...BUT FROM WHAT HE'S PLANNING, IT SURE SEEMS THAT WAY.

I DON'T HAVE ABSOLUTE PROOF...

UCHIHA MADARA... HE REALLY IS STILL ALIVE?

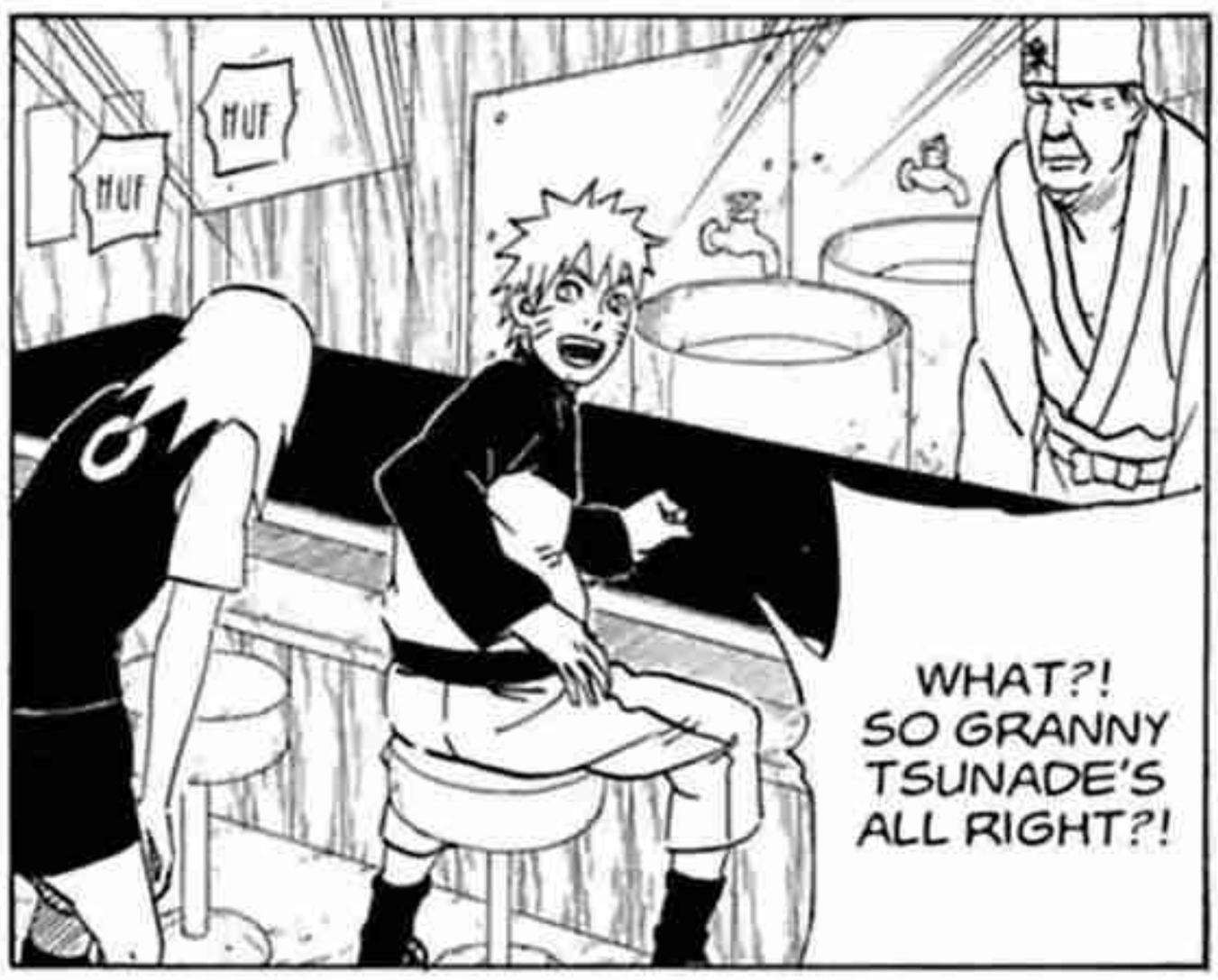
THAT'S HOW BAD THE SITUATION SEEMS TO BE.

I'M AMAZED THAT THE TSUCHI-KAGE AND RAIKAGE AGREED TO COOP-ERATE.

...I WAS SHOCKED TO HEAR ABOUT THE ALLIED SHINOBI FORCE, THOUGH.

WE PREPARE FOR WAR!
I SHALL CALL A COUNCIL MEETING AS SOON AS I FINISH EATING!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE UCHIHA MISFORTUNES NOW TORMENT ALL SHINOBI.
...ANOTHER WAR, HUH.


HUF
HUF
WHAT?! SO GRANNY TSUNADE'S ALL RIGHT?!

楽

YES!!
WUMP

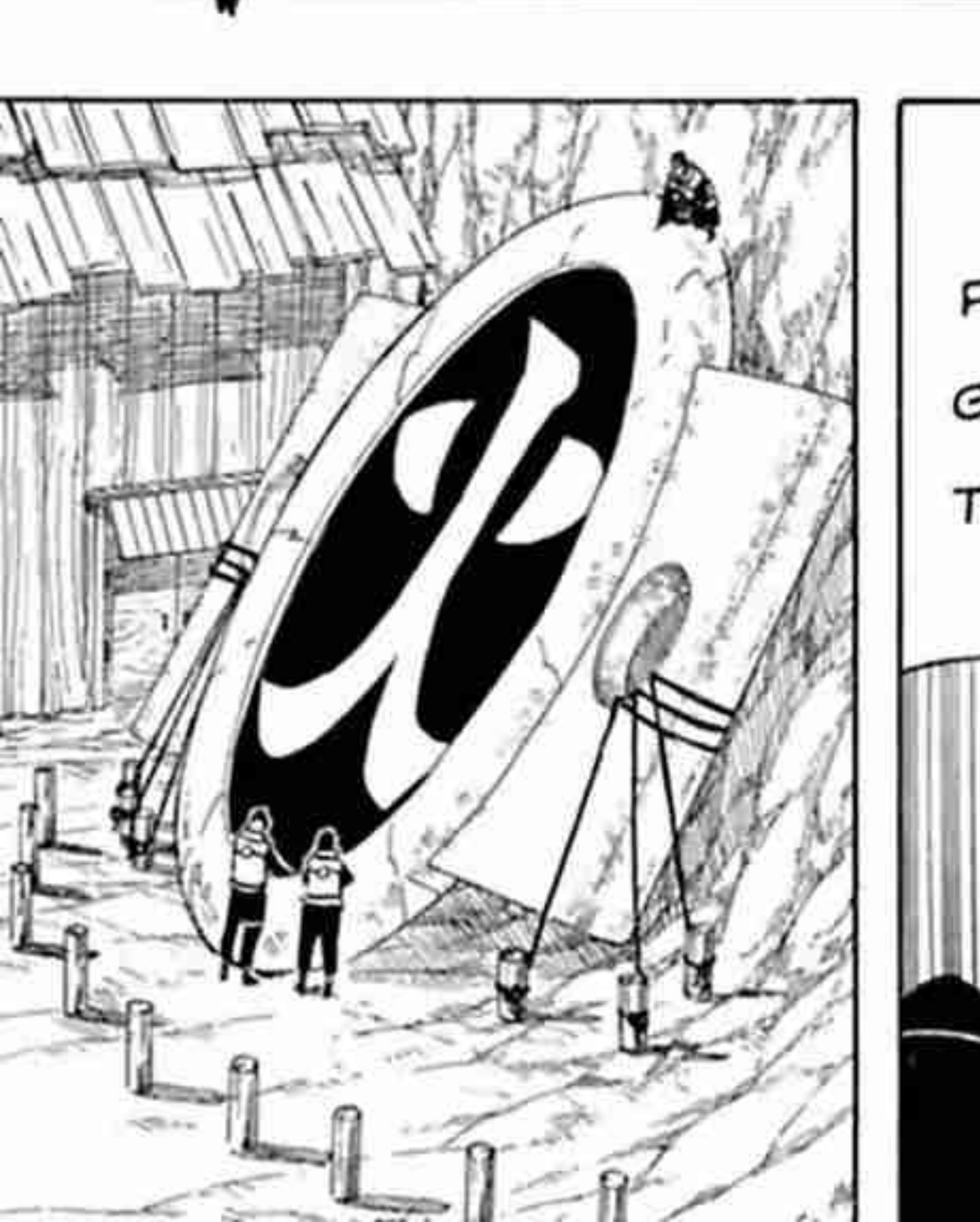
YUP!
HUF
HUF

HUH?! FOR REAL?!

ALL RIGHT!
YOUR RAMEN'S ON THE HOUSE TODAY, IN CELEBRATION!
THAT'S SUCH GOOD NEWS ABOUT LADY TSUNADE!

FWAP
BYE, NARUTO!
TAK

YOU TOO, SAKURA, PULL UP A SEAT!
FSH
I'VE GOT TO TELL EVERYONE!
THANKS, BUT NO.

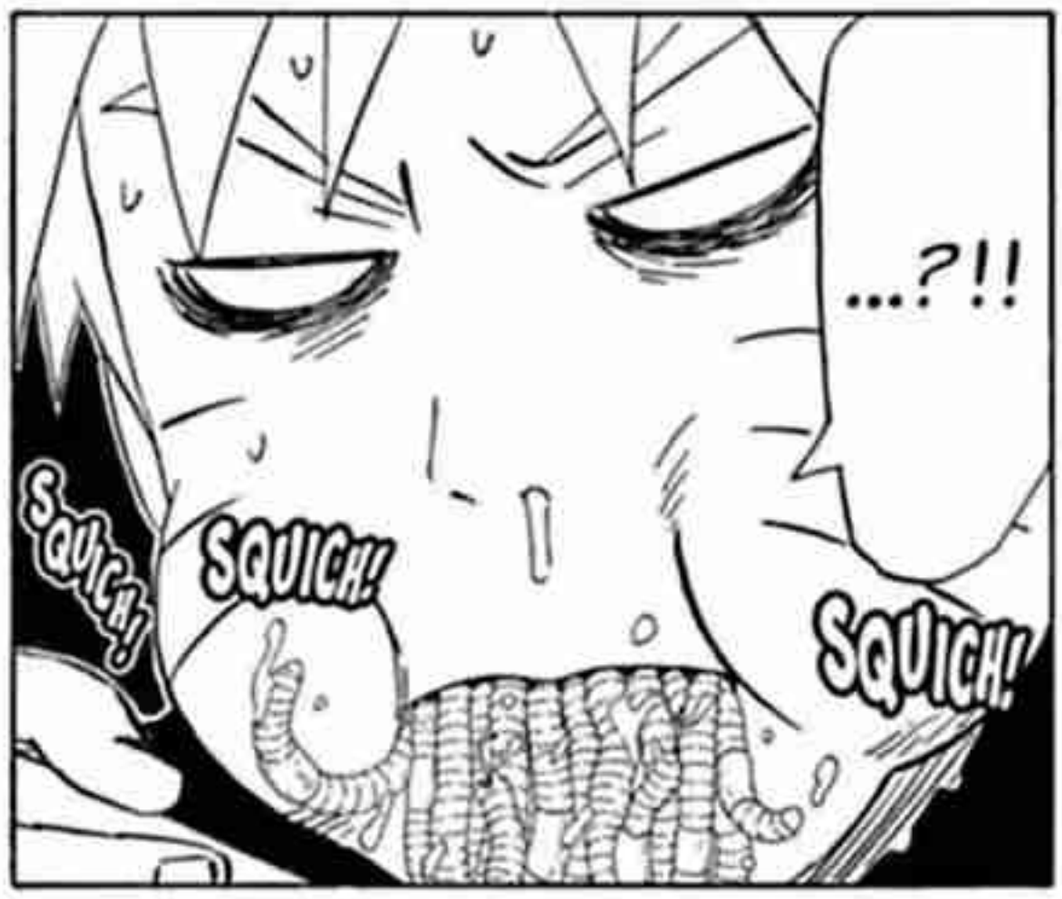


ALL RIGHT! I AM GONNA EAT TODAY!
I'M EVEN MORE HUNGRY NOW THAT I'M HAPPY!

I HEREBY OPEN A WAR COUNCIL TO DISCUSS STRATEGY AND TACTICS.

READ THIS WAY
THANK...
CLU
HERE YOU ARE!
NK
HE DISAP-PEARED ?
HUH?
BOOF
BOOF
...YOU!!

WOO-HOO♪!


...?!!
SQUICH!
SQUICH!
SQUICH!

LA LA LA DI DA... DI DA ♪
ZLUURP

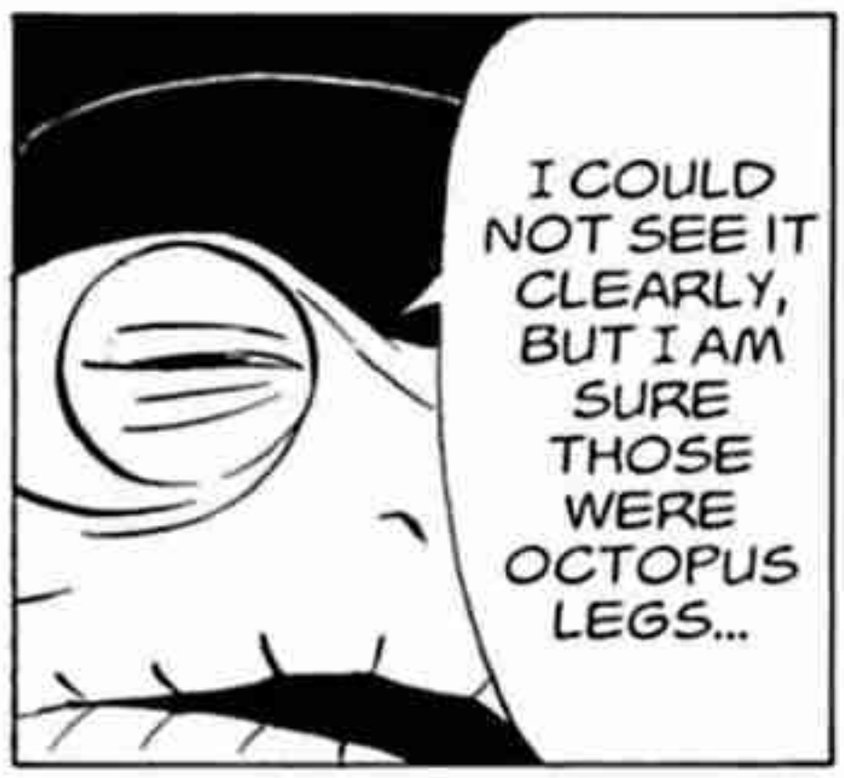
AAARGH!!

YA MAKE ME SO HAPPY, WIT' HOW YA LOVE MY ARTHROPOD COOKIN'!
'E JUST DUG RIGHT IN...

READ THIS WAY
COME ALONG NOW.
DON'T YA DARE HURL!!
I REVERSE-SUMMONED YA.
...WHAT AM I DOING HERE AGAIN?
GREAT LORD ELDER'S GONNA DIVINE YA FUTURE, NARUTO-BOY.
LONG TIME NO SEE, GIANT GRAMPS SAGE!!
YO!!
I HAVE BROUGHT 'IM, GREAT LORD.
...WHO'RE YOU, AGAIN?
...ER...
IT WAS INDEED I WHO SUM-MONED YOU...
仙

MY DEAR NARUTO... I HAVE SEEN A DREAM INVOLVING YOU.
YOU WILL SOON BE MEETING AN OCTOPUS.

AAH, RIGHT! THAT'S RIGHT! ...NARUTO.
C'MON, COULD YA REMEMBER MY NAME ALREADY, GIANT GRAMPS SAGE?!
UZUMAKI NARUTO!
SIGH... THIS IS STARTIN' TA GET MIGHTY OLD!


I COULD NOT SEE IT CLEARLY, BUT I AM SURE THOSE WERE OCTOPUS LEGS...

AN OCTOPUS ?

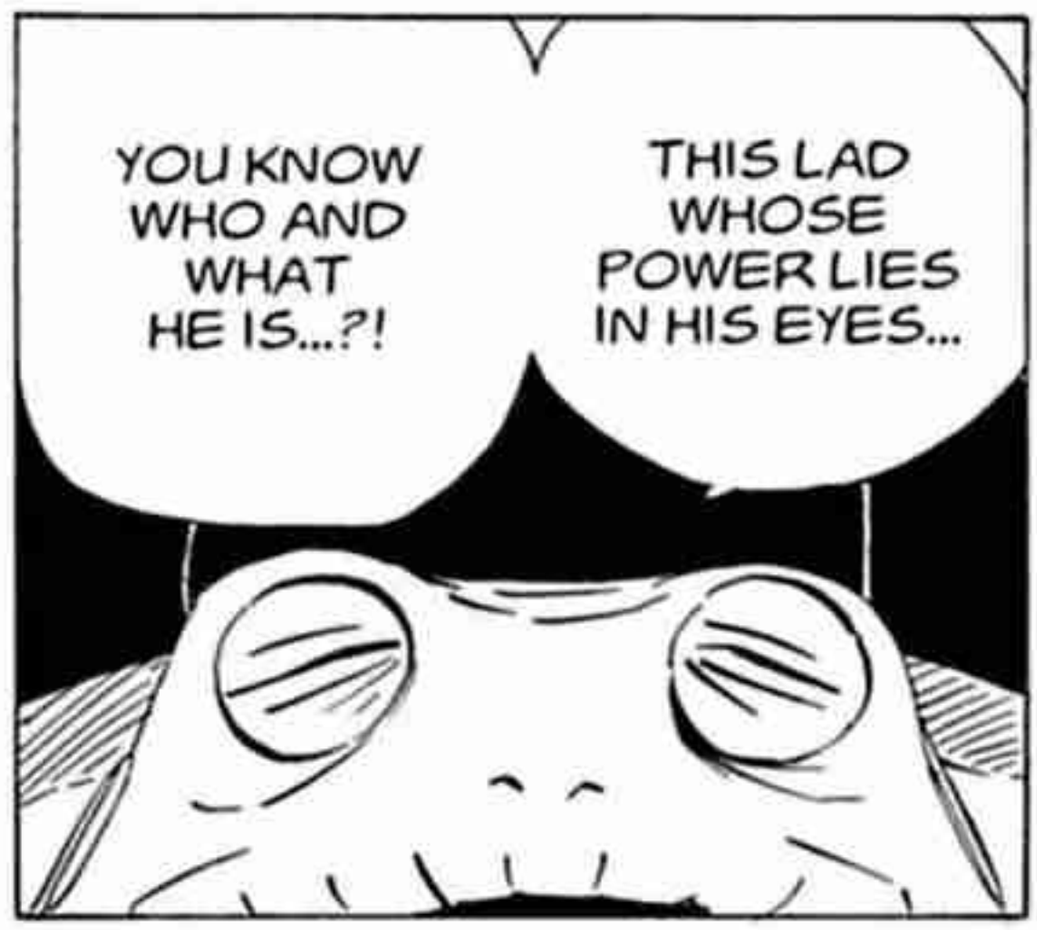
...

AFTERWARDS... YOU WILL COME TO BATTLE A LAD WHOSE POWER LIES IN HIS EYES... AND...
?

YEAH...
...HAVE SEEN IT...?

YEAH... I KNOW.
...YOU...
WHAT DO YA MEAN, YA KNOW?

AND I'VE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND.
YUP...


YOU KNOW WHO AND WHAT HE IS...?!
THIS LAD WHOSE POWER LIES IN HIS EYES...

ALL RIGHT, BUT ONLY CUZ YA SAID SO, GREAT LORD ELDER.
SWOOO

SO YOU MAY HAND HIM THE KEY TO THE FOURTH HOKAGE'S SEAL.
GAMATORA... I ALSO SAW A DREAM WHERE YOU STORED YOURSELF INSIDE NARUTO.

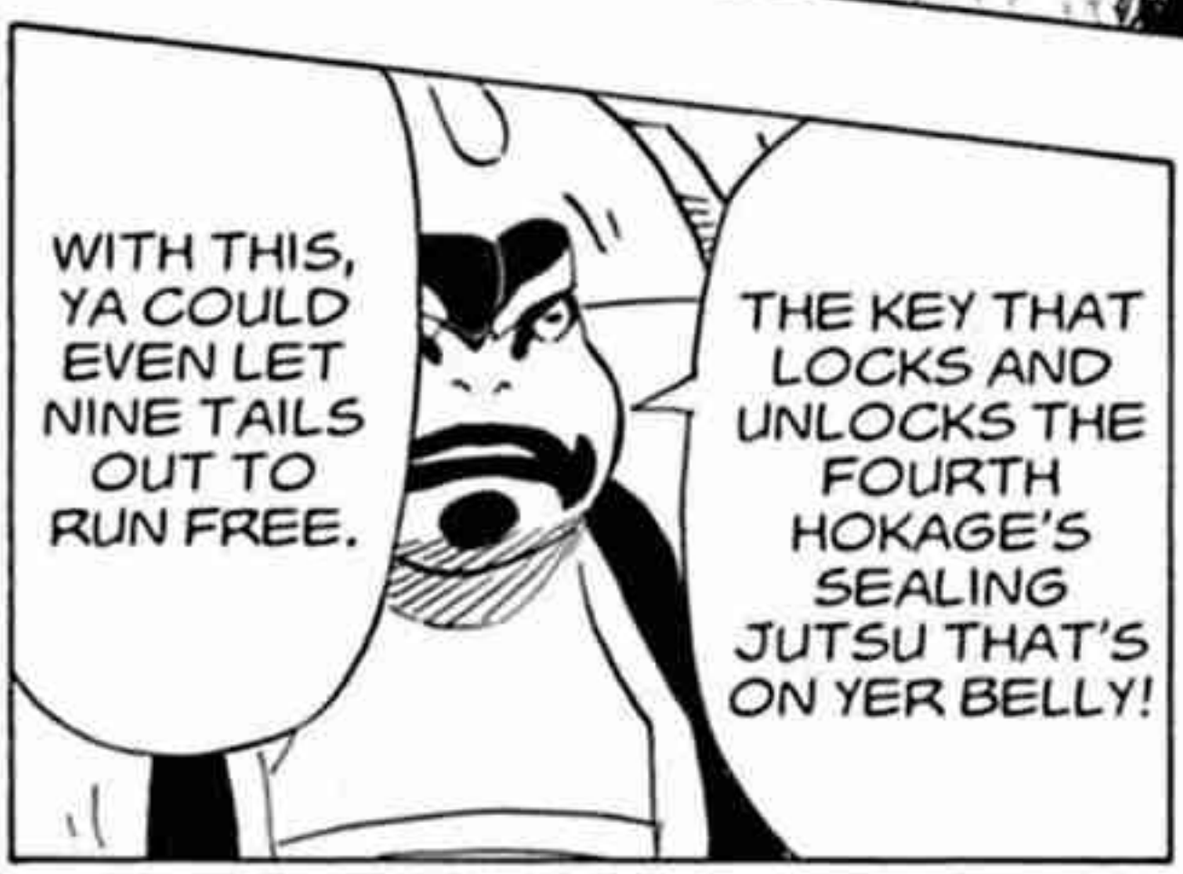
...

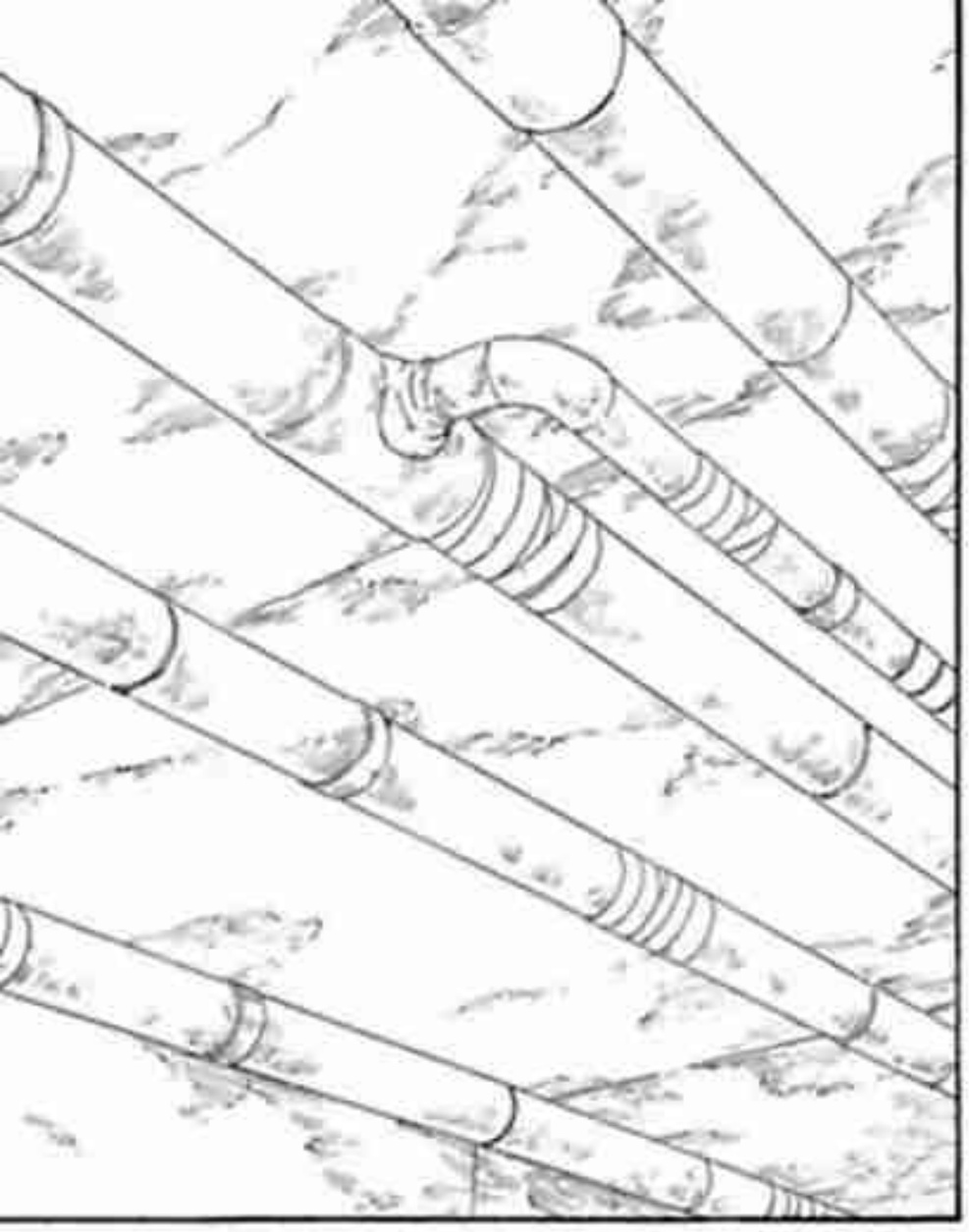
油

FWA

WAFT

WAFT...





...

...ERASE HIS TRACES...
STILL... WHY IS HE LEAVING A TRAIL...? HE COULD, IF HE WANTED TO...

KABUTO'S GETTING MORE AND MORE LIKE OROCHIMARU.

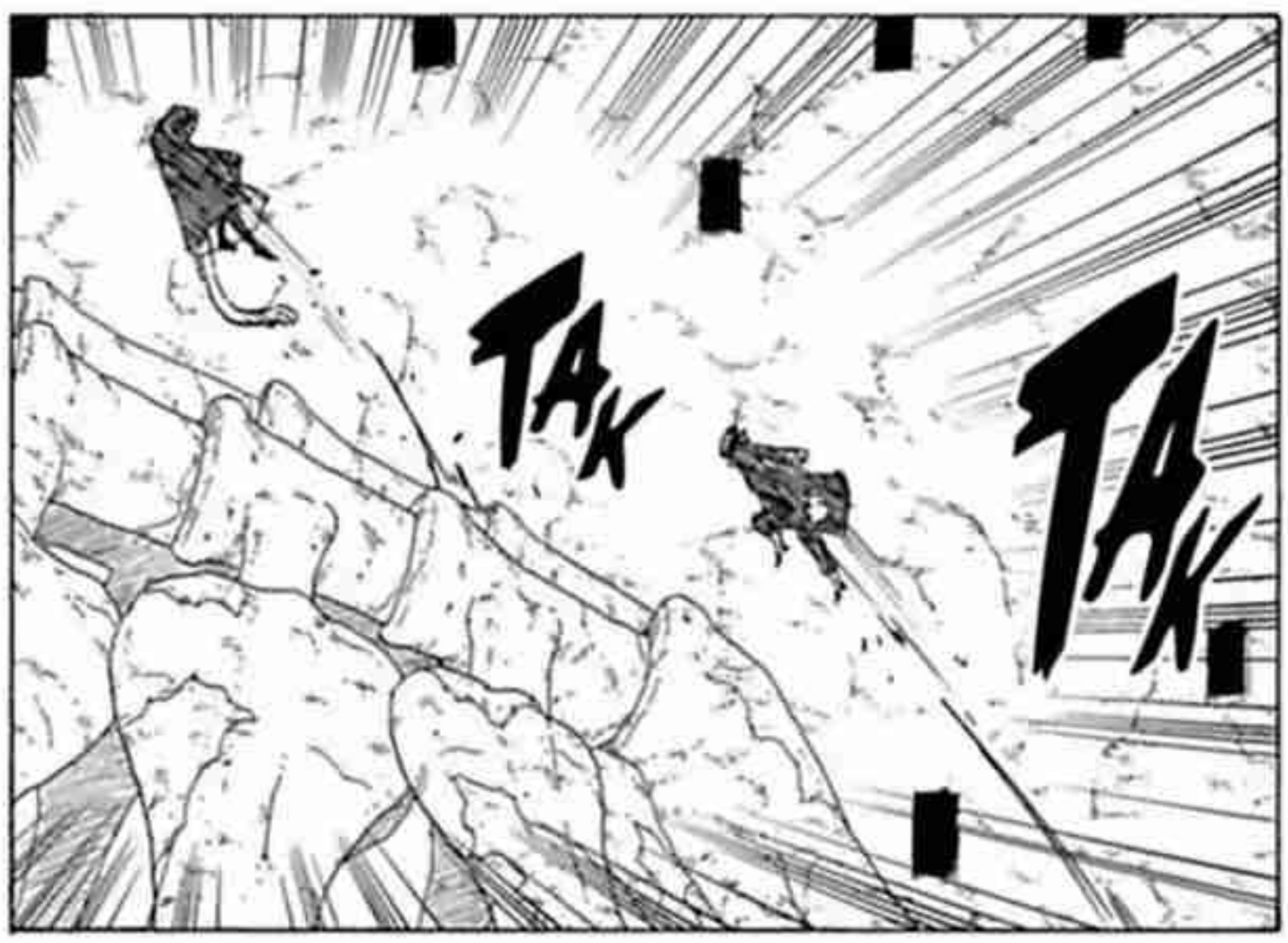
LET'S START...

...SO HE'S GOING TO GO AFTER EITHER KONOHA OR THE AKATSUKI...
I SUSPECT HE'S TAKEN ON OROCHIMARU'S WILL...
YOU THINK IT'S DELIB-ERATE? WHAT IS HE PLOTTING?

...OR RATHER ...
...I HEAR YOU'RE GOING BY MADARA THESE DAYS.

...WITH GREETINGS, SHALL WE, TOBI...?
SHUP

YOU OUGHTN'T UNDERESTIMATE THE VOLUME OF INTEL I POSSESS, FROM CRISSCROSSING LAND AFTER LAND AS A SPY... AND A MEMBER OF THE AKATSUKI.
I'M IMPRESSED YOU FOUND THIS PLACE.


TAK
TAK

...WHICH MAKES YOU NOW A TRAITOR.
THAT'S RIGHT... YOU WERE ONE OF SASORI'S SPIES...

SCREEEECH
WAP
!
G G G G-G G G
WUF
THIS IS...!
KLOP KLOP KLOP KLOP KLOP

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

NARUTO

JOIN FORCES...?

...

I OFFER YOU STRENGTH IN BATTLE...

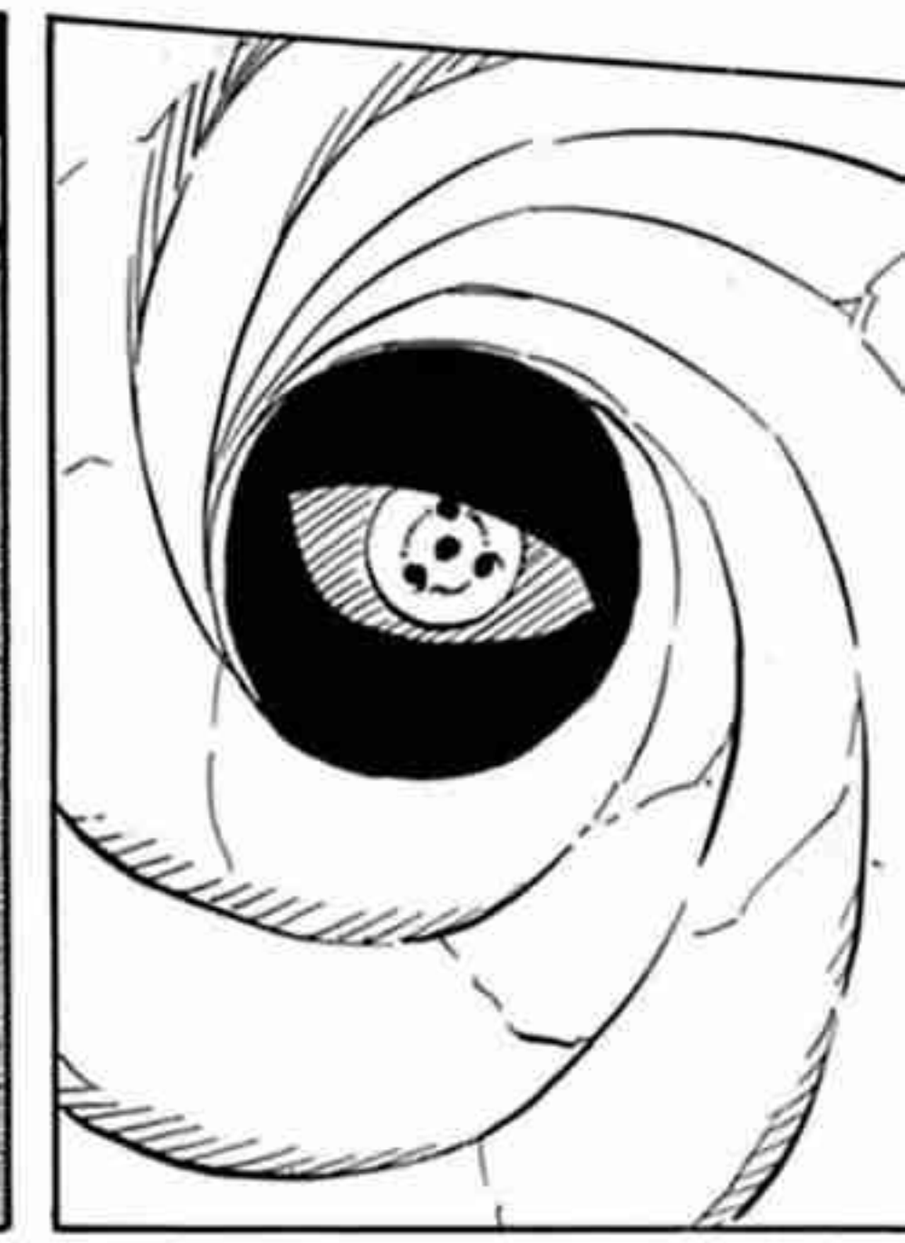
I HEAR YOU'RE STARTING A WAR.

WHAT WOULD BE IN IT FOR ME?

## Number 490: The Truth About Nine Tails!!

...THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY PAWNS I POSSESS.

STALWART WARRIORS, ALL... PLUS...



READ THIS WAY
AND IF I WERE TO REFUSE?
...
I DESIRE A LIVING, YOUNG, UCHIHA INDIVIDUAL.
SASUKE IS MERELY NECESSARY FOR PART OF MY RESEARCH.
KUCHIYOSE SUMMONING! EDOTENSEI!!
...
FWIP
KLOP...
TH-THAT'S ...!!
...?!
DNK
ZWOP

THAT'S RIGHT... YOU CANNOT REFUSE ME!

DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD APPROACH YOU WITHOUT A HIDDEN MOVE?

DON'T WORRY, I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE ELSE.

I HAVE MY MEANS...

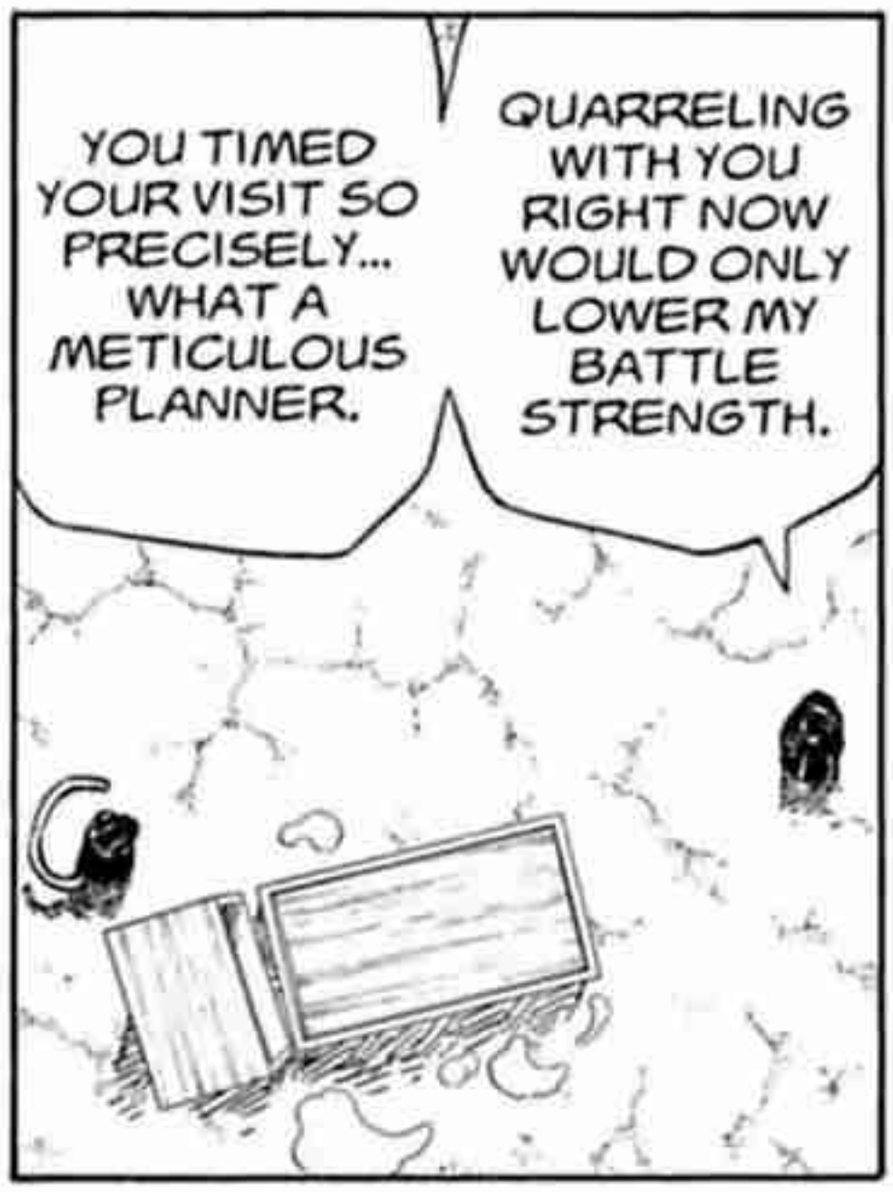
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?!

GRR...

OH, DID I SAY SOME-THING FUNNY?
HEH... HEH HEH HEH...

...

AND SO?


YOU TIMED YOUR VISIT SO PRECISELY... WHAT A METICULOUS PLANNER.
QUARRELING WITH YOU RIGHT NOW WOULD ONLY LOWER MY BATTLE STRENGTH.

I NEVER IMAGINED YOU WOULD BECOME SUCH A... FORMIDABLE VESSEL.
YAKUSHI KABUTO.

VERY WELL, I'LL JOIN FORCES WITH YOU.
HOWEVER...

I EXPECTED NO LESS FROM UCHIHA MADARA... YOUR VESSEL IS UNIQUE.

YOU COMPREHEND QUICKLY.

UNTIL THEN, I WILL NOT EVEN LET YOU SEE HIM.

...I WILL ONLY HAND SASUKE OVER AFTER YOU'VE BOTH SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED YOUR ROLES IN THE WAR.

IN ADDITION, YOU WILL AGREE TO BE WATCHED AS WELL.

HEGH

I SHALL REFORMULATE MY STRATEGY AFTER I CONFIRM YOUR BATTLE STRENGTH.

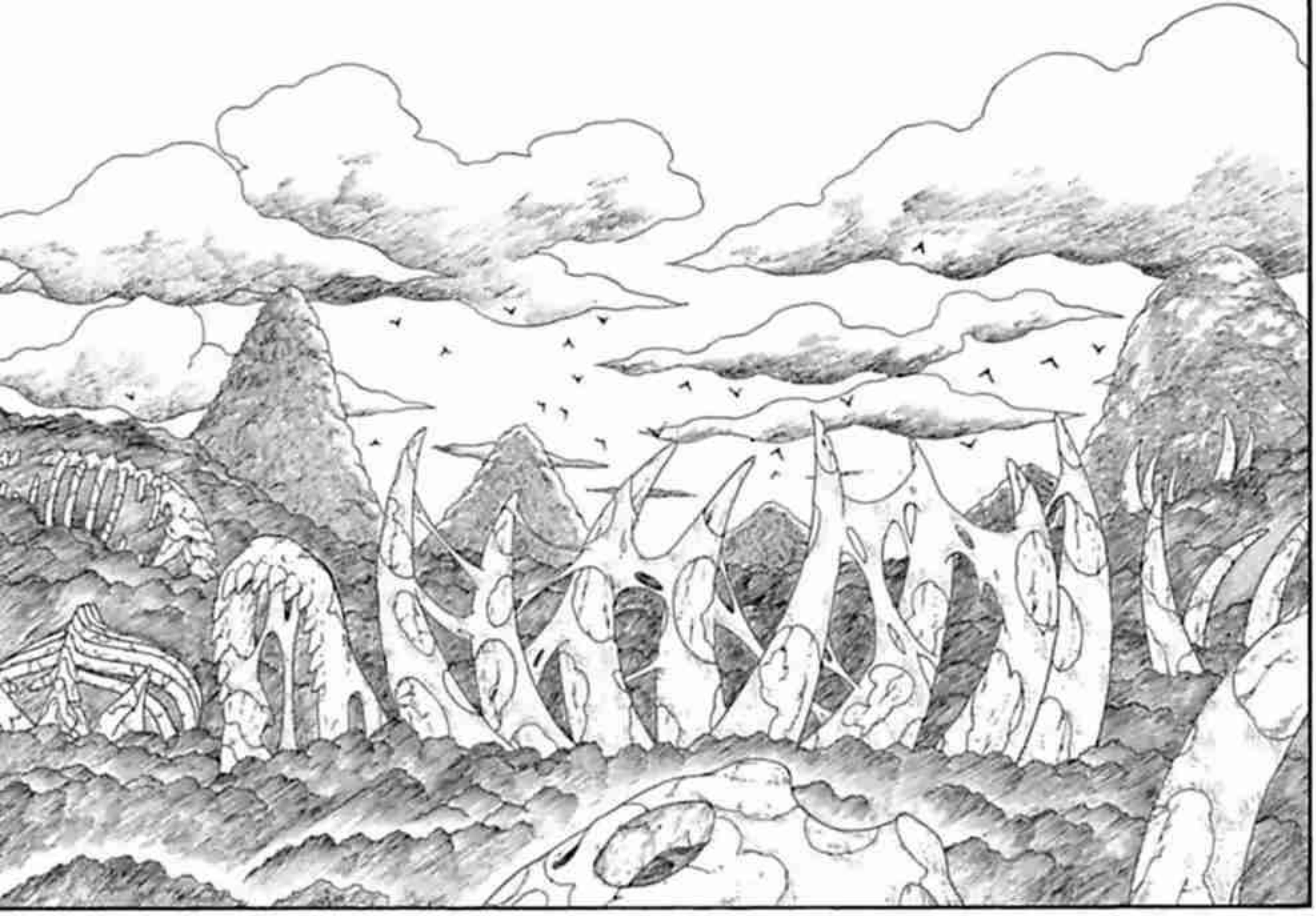
...COME ALONG.

AND YOU'RE INSOLENT.

KLOMP

CREAK

GRR



...THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING SOMEWHERE UP AHEAD.
BASED ON THIS SHINOBI'S APPEAR-ANCE...

HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO LEAVE A CORPSE LYING AROUND THIS HINTERLAND...

GUK
BYAKUGAN!!
EEN

YES, MA'AM!
TOKUMA! USE YOUR BYAKUGAN IN THE DIRECTION OF TWO O'CLOCK.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
BUT PERHAPS IT'S A TRAP?
SSH

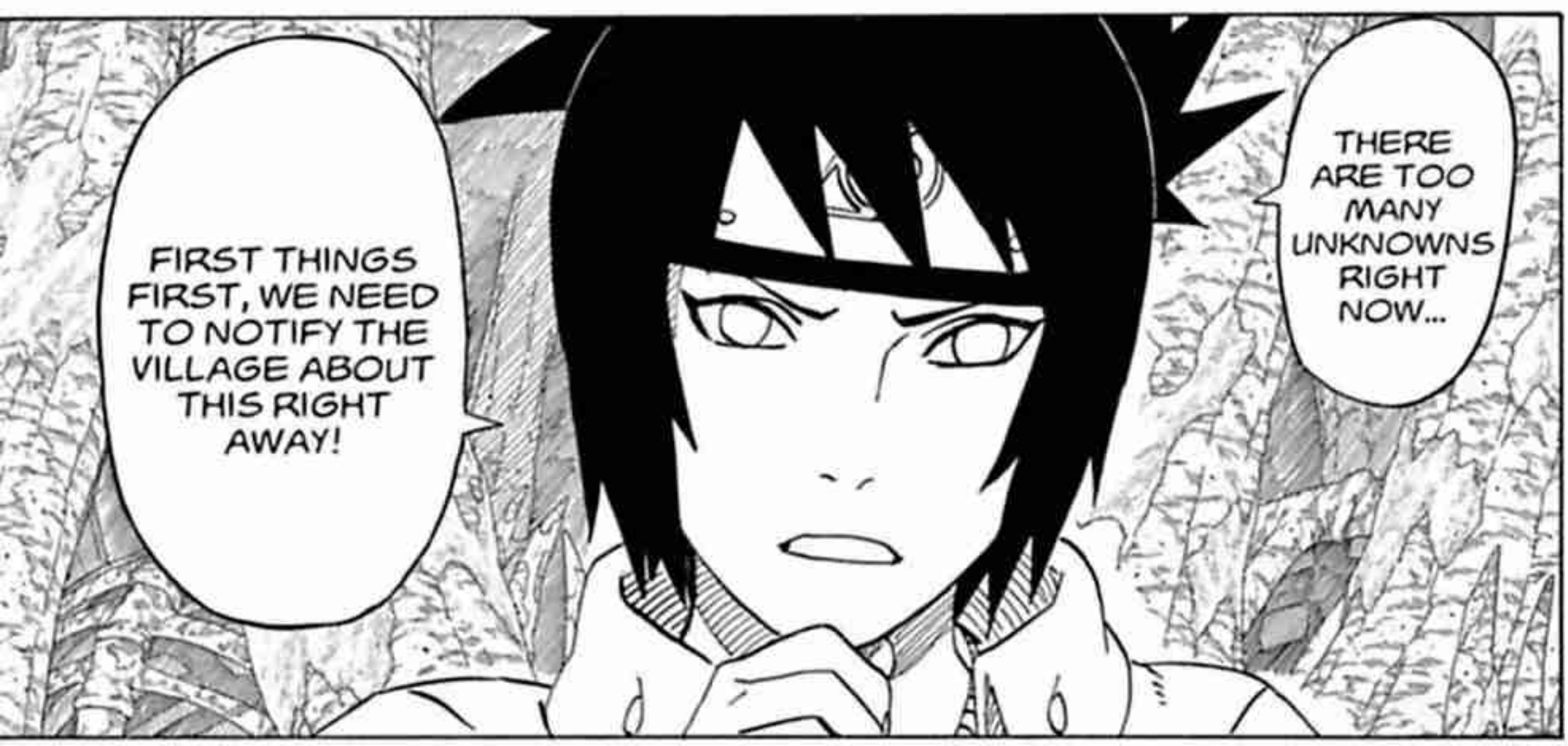
WHAT?!

THE TWO ARE ENTERING WHAT APPEARS TO BE A GATEWAY LEADING BELOW GROUND!
KABUTO IS NOT ALONE! ...THAT MASKED AKATSUKI FELLOW IS WITH HIM!!

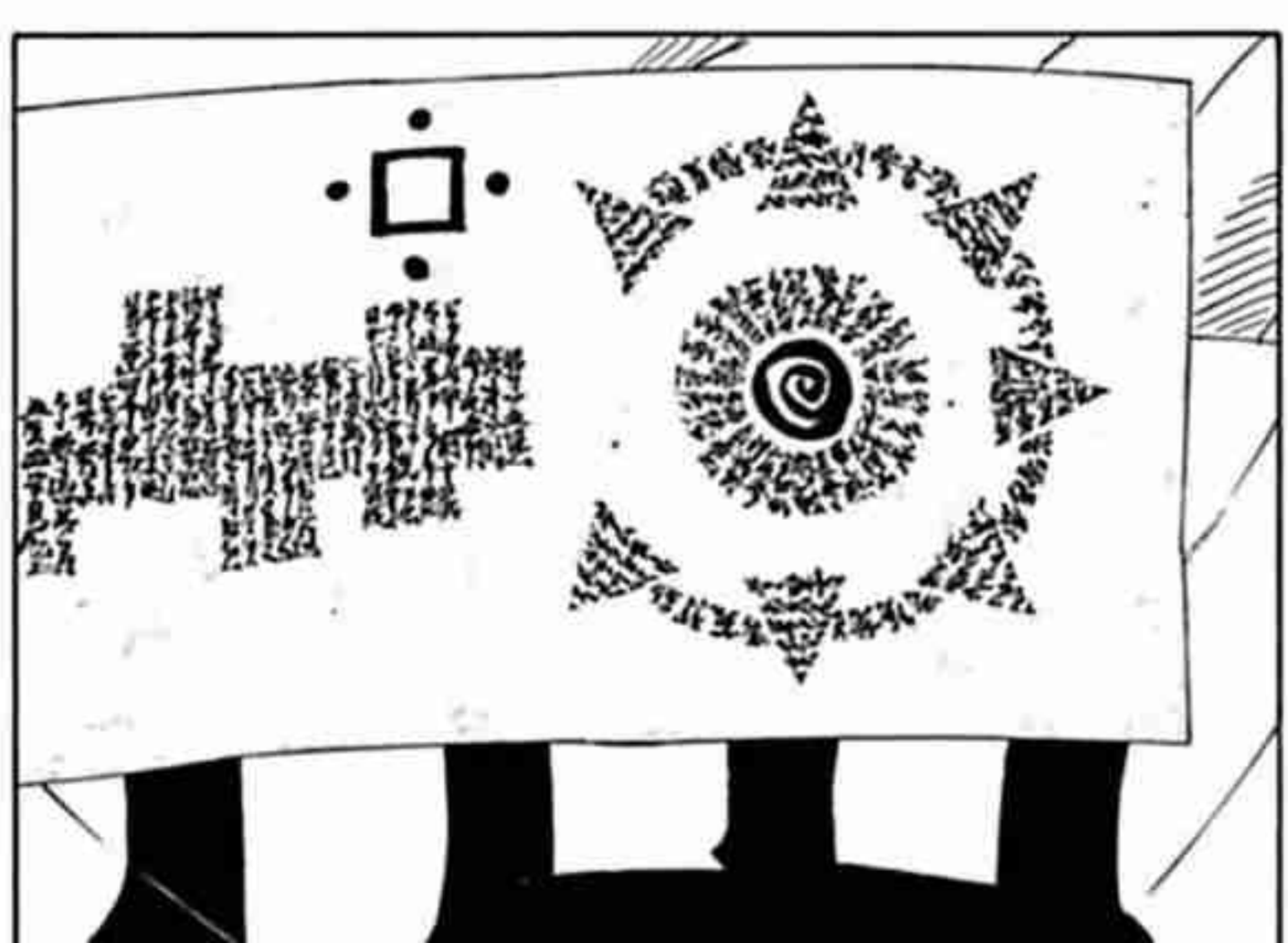
CAPTAIN MITARASHI ...!
WHAT IS IT?

TO GIVE US MADARA'S HIDEOUT...?
DID KABUTO DELIBERATELY LEAD US HERE?
WHY WOULD THEY JOIN FORCES?

BUT WHY ARE HE AND KABUTO TOGETHER?
SO IS THIS ONE OF THE HIDEOUTS OF THAT AKATSUKI GUY CLAIMING TO BE MADARA?!
HAVE THEY JOINED FORCES?


FIRST THINGS FIRST, WE NEED TO NOTIFY THE VILLAGE ABOUT THIS RIGHT AWAY!
THERE ARE TOO MANY UNKNOWNS RIGHT NOW...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
HURRY UP 'N PRESS THE STORIN' SQUARE!



YER UNSURE, EH, NARUTO...

...CAN'T SAY I BLAME YA.

BUT WHY?

...

...CONVERT IT INTO ONE'S OWN CHAKRA, 'N THUS MAKE IT ONE'S OWN POWER.

...ONE NEEDS TO EXTRACT JUST NINE TAILS' CHAKRA...

TO CONTROL NINE TAILS' POWER...

CHAKRA

WILL

...IT COMES FROM TH' NINE TAILS' CHAKRA MIXIN' WITH TH' NINE TAILS' WILL.

LORD FUKASAKU... TH' NINE TAILS' POWER...

WHEN ONE PULLS OUT NINE TAILS' CHAKRA, HIS WILL TAGS ALONG.

CHAKRA

WILL

ZWOOO

CACKLE CACKLE

BUT THAT'S NOT AS EASY AS IT SOUNDS...

...EMPTY OF HATE, THAT CAN COMPLETELY SEPARATE NINE TAILS' WILL FROM HIS CHAKRA.

IN SHORT, IN ORDER TO CONTROL NINE TAILS' POWER, ONE MUST HAVE A STRONG WILL OF ONE'S OWN...

CHAKRA

THWAP

WILL

BAH...

...BOUND TIGHTLY TO HIS CHAKRA BY STRONG FORCES.

'N NINE TAILS' WILL IS A LUMP OF HATRED...

...IT FERRETS OUT ANY HATRED LYING AROUND ONE'S HEART AND TRIES TO BIND TO IT TO TAKE OVER.

NO MATTER HOW STRONGLY ONE TRIES TO HOLD ON TO ONESELF...

THE FOURTH HOKAGE CONSTRUCTED THAT SEAL SO THAT A LITTLE BIT OF CHAKRA CONTINUOUSLY LEAKED OUT OF NINE TAILS' CAGE...

...TO BE SKIMMED OFF, IN THE HOPES OF NATURALLY BECOMIN' ONE WITH NARUTO'S CHAKRA.

...'N AS SOON AS NARUTO'S WILL LOSES TO NINE TAILS' WILL...

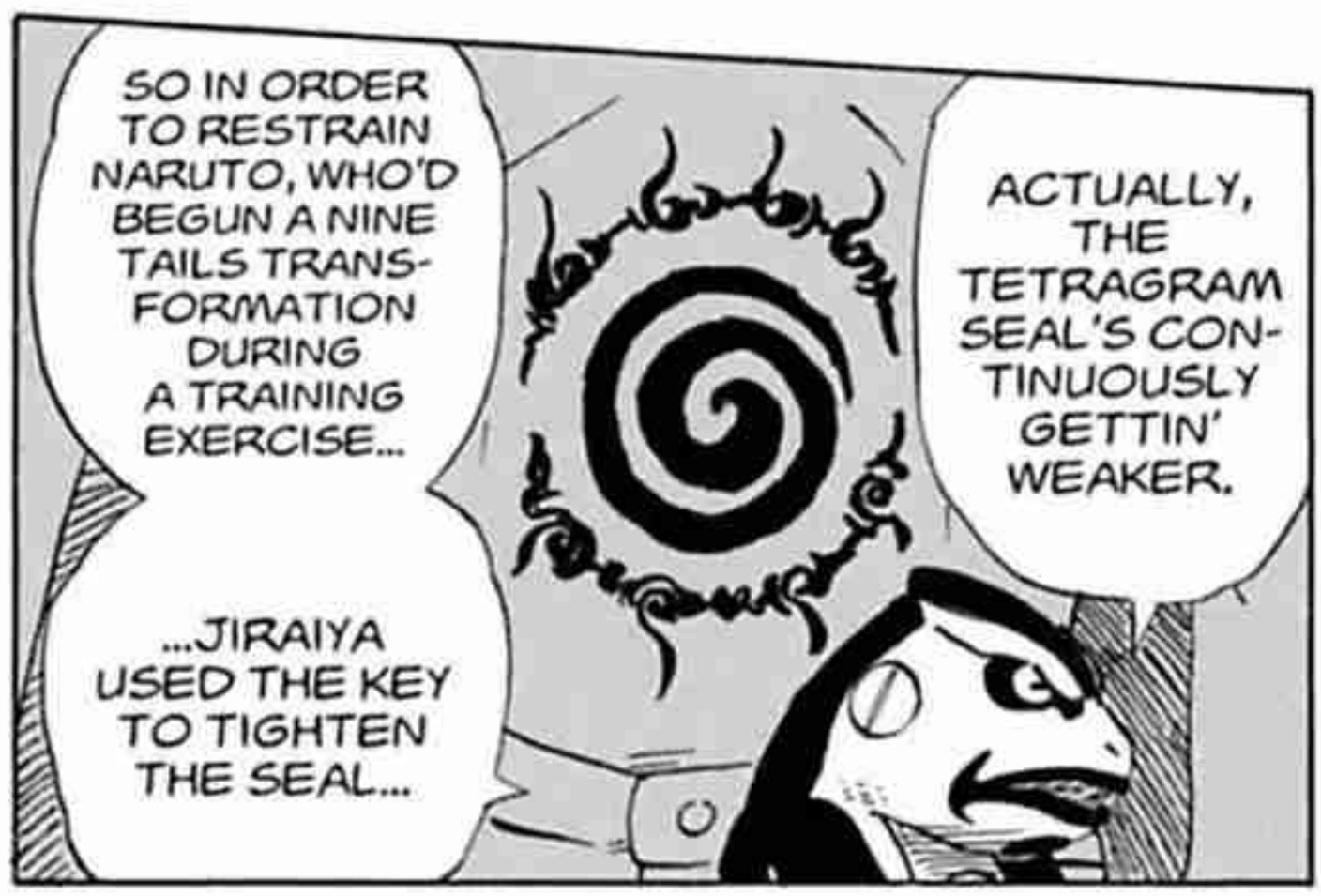
...ALL O' NINE TAILS' WILL WOULD TAG ALONG WITH ALL O' NINE TAILS' CHAKRA...

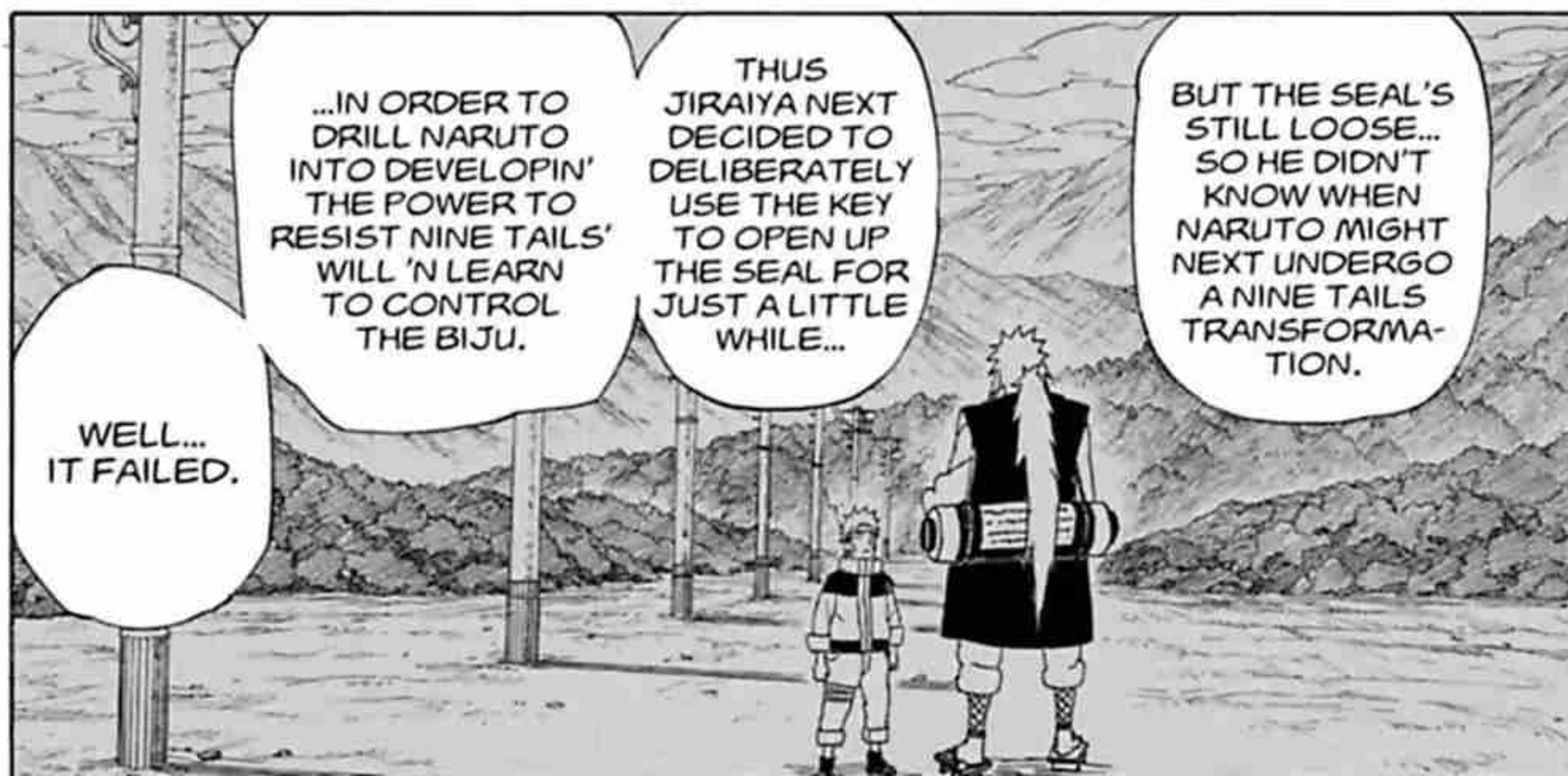
'N THEN...

...NARUTO COULD THEN PULL OUT ALL OF NINE TAILS' CHAKRA!

BUT IF NARUTO USES THIS KEY TO OPEN THE TETRAGRAM SEAL...

NINE TAILS SHALL FULLY COME BACK TO LIFE!!





I LOST IT WHEN HE WAS HARSHING ON SASUKE...

I WANTED TO TAKE DOWN OROCHIMARU RIGHT THEN!

FOR SURE, BACK WHEN I FOUGHT OROCHI-MARU...

...I RELIED ON NINE TAILS' POWER ON PURPOSE. I GAVE HIM MY WILL.

'N SINCE THEN?

IT HASN'T GONE WELL.

THAT'S WHEN CAPTAIN YAMATO TOLD ME I NEED TO FIGHT USING ONLY *MY* OWN POWER, NOT NINE TAILS'.

BUT I ENDED UP HURTING SAKURA...

ESPECIALLY SINCE I DIDN'T THINK I COULD EVER SUPPRESS NINE TAILS' WILL WITH MY OWN...

...THAN REAL BATTLE. IN REAL BATTLE, HATE CAN COME RIGHT OUT.

SO I THOUGHT I DIDN'T WANT NINE TAILS' POWER ANYMORE.

CAPTAIN YAMATO CAN SUPPRESS JINCHÛRIKI. TRAINING UNDER HIM IS DIFFERENT...

BUT IT COULD FALL APART AGAIN!
I'M OK NOW 'CAUSE THE FOURTH HOKAGE REBUILT THE SEAL.
WOOO

MY HEART LINKED TO NINE TAILS' WILL ALL BY ITSELF.

BUT WHEN PAIN TOOK HINATA DOWN... I LOST IT AGAIN...

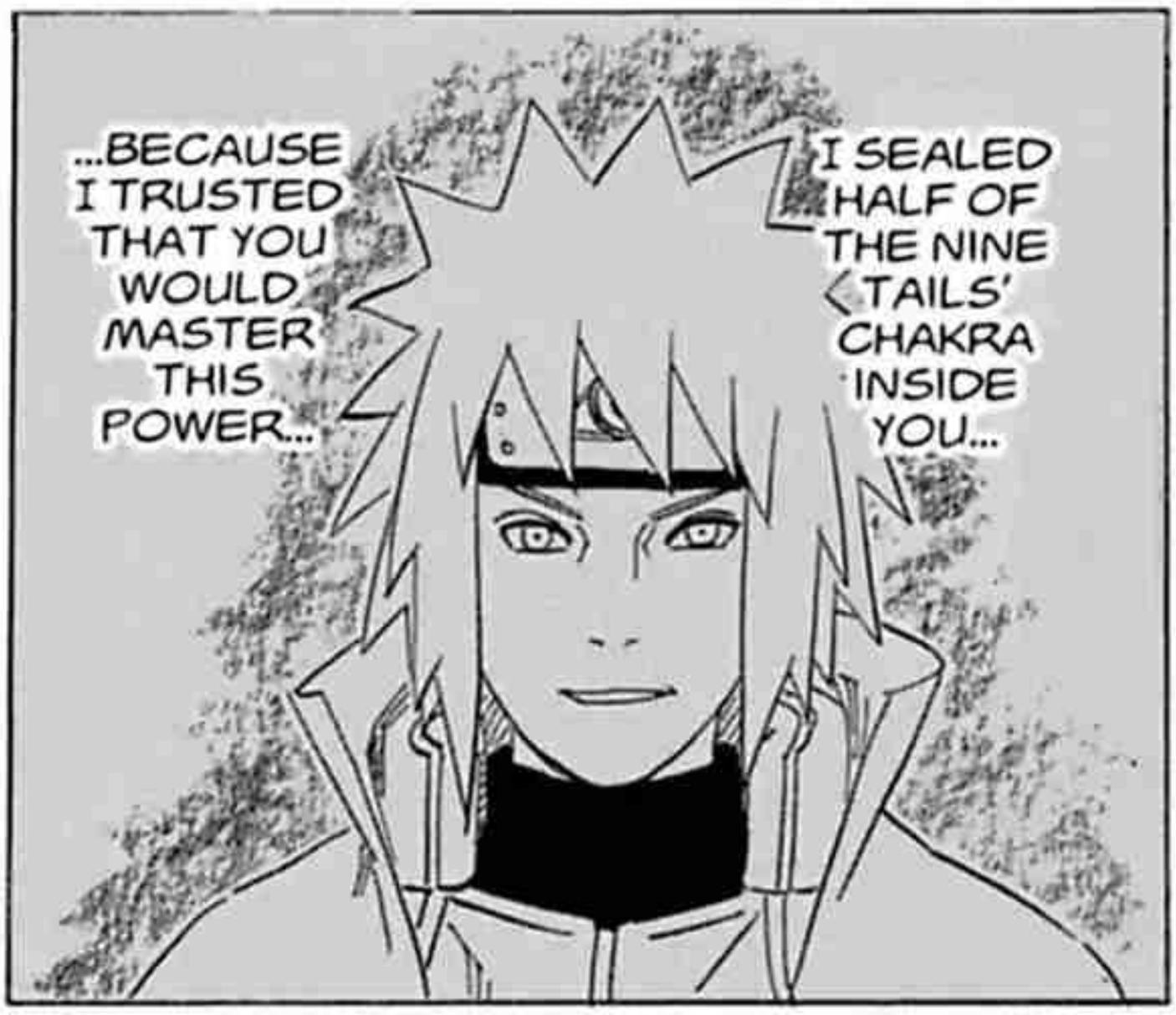
BUT...

...

I CAN'T HIDE FROM THAT FOREVER.
I AM NINE TAILS' JINCHÛRIKI.

...I NEED NINE TAILS' CHAKRA TO FIGHT SASUKE.

...
BAP


...BECAUSE I TRUSTED THAT YOU WOULD MASTER THIS POWER...
I SEALED HALF OF THE NINE TAILS' CHAKRA INSIDE YOU...

I'M GONNA CONQUER THIS CONTROL THING, PA!
NO USE GETTING DEPRESSED.

MUMBLE
RHYMES
MUMBLE

HAVEN'T COME UP WITH ANY GOOD RHYMES LATELY... I NEED A CATCH-PHRASE...
RHYMES

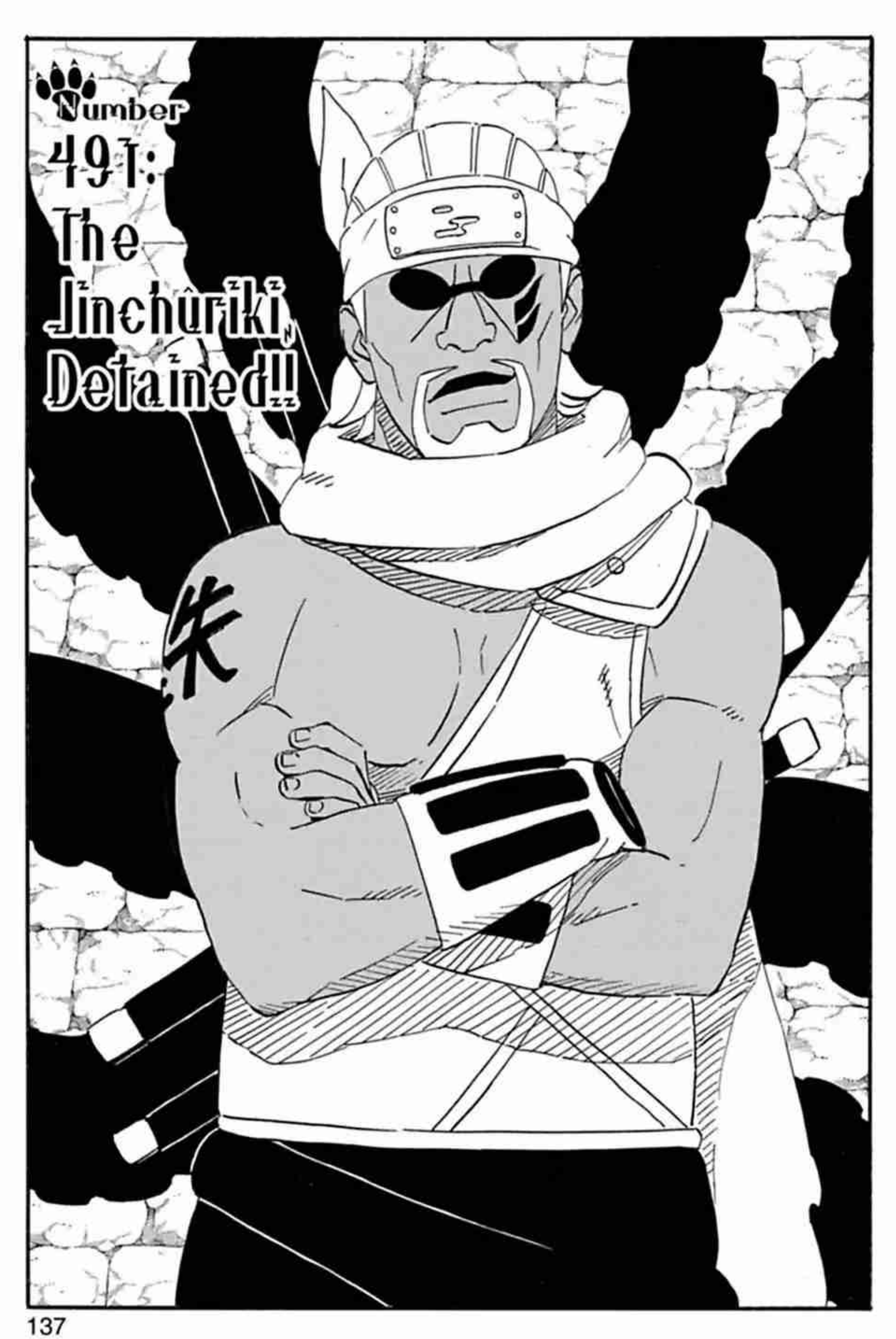
THE CON-TRACT'S DONE!
I'M GOIN' IN!
NEXT STOP, FINDIN' THIS OCTOPUS!

WITHOUT THE PRECISE LOCATION OF THE ENEMY'S HEADQUARTERS OR HIDEOUT, THE SUCCESS OF ANY SURPRISE ATTACK IS DOUBTFUL.

THUS, THE FIRST STEP IS TO ORGANIZE SCOUTING PARTIES.

KNOW YOU THAT...

READ THIS WAY


Number
491:
The
Jinchûriki
Detained!!

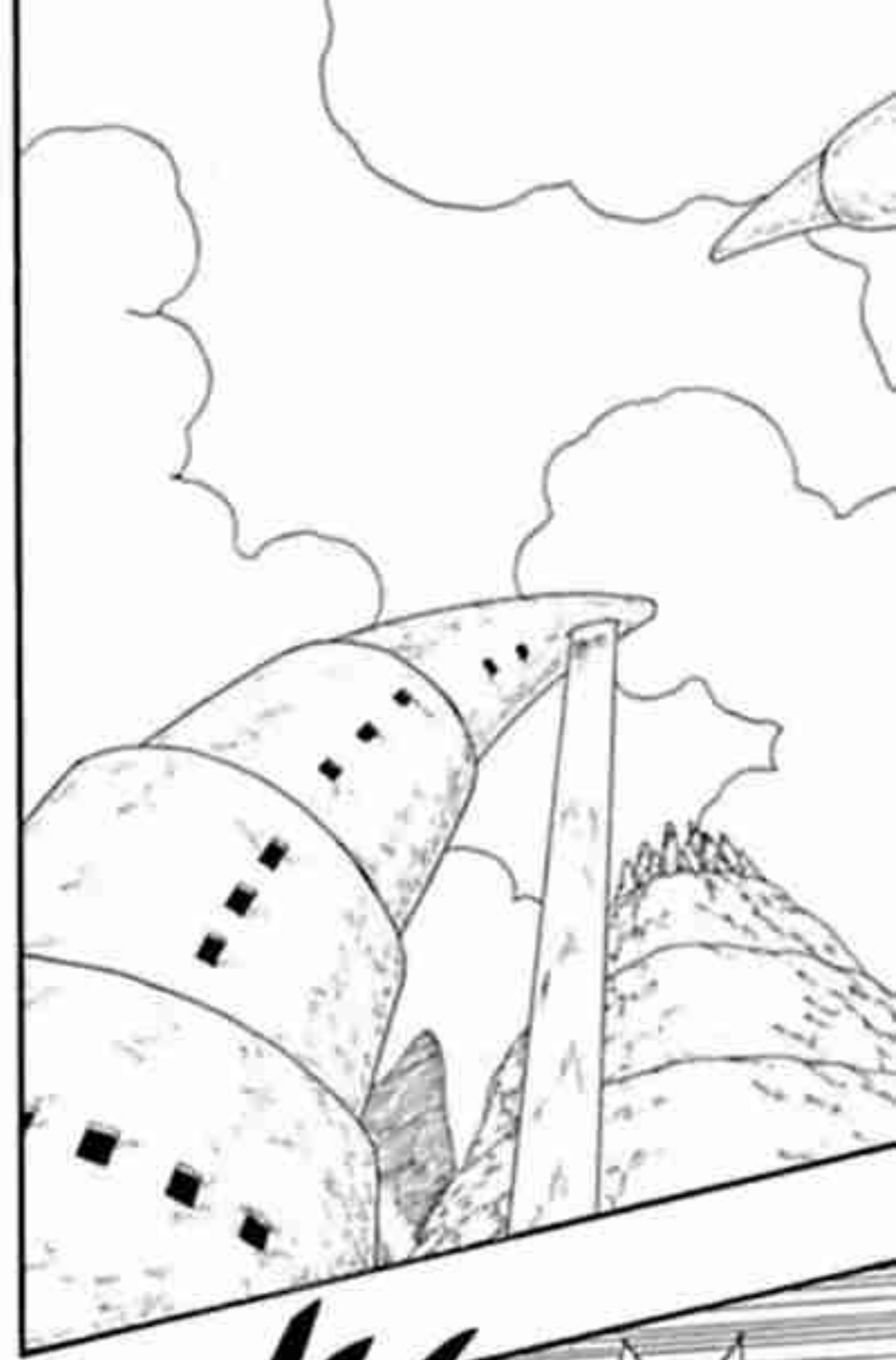
DO YA REALLY WANT ME INSIDE YA OR NOT?

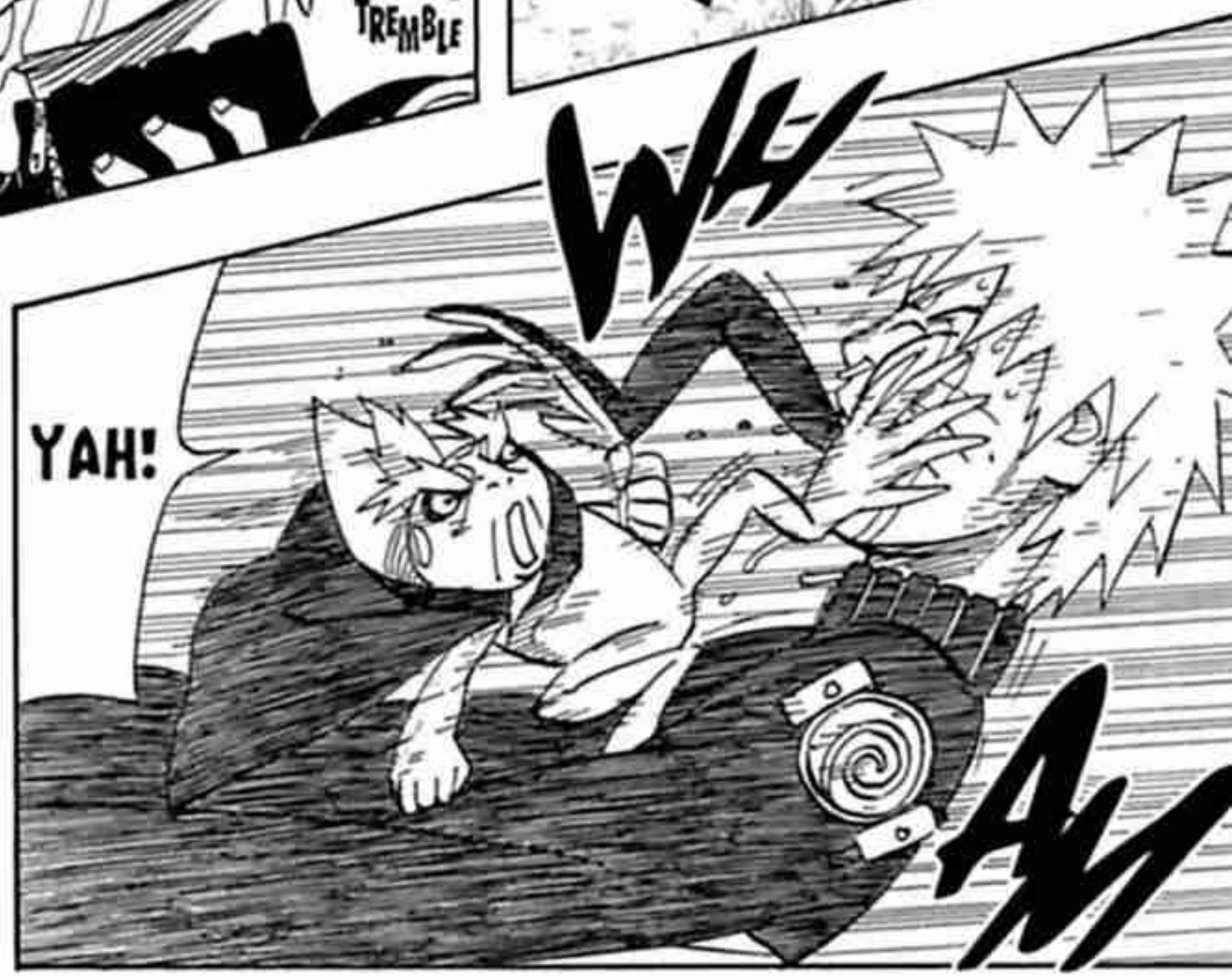
WHY MY MOUTH...? HE'S ALL SLIMY... THIS IS SO GROSS...

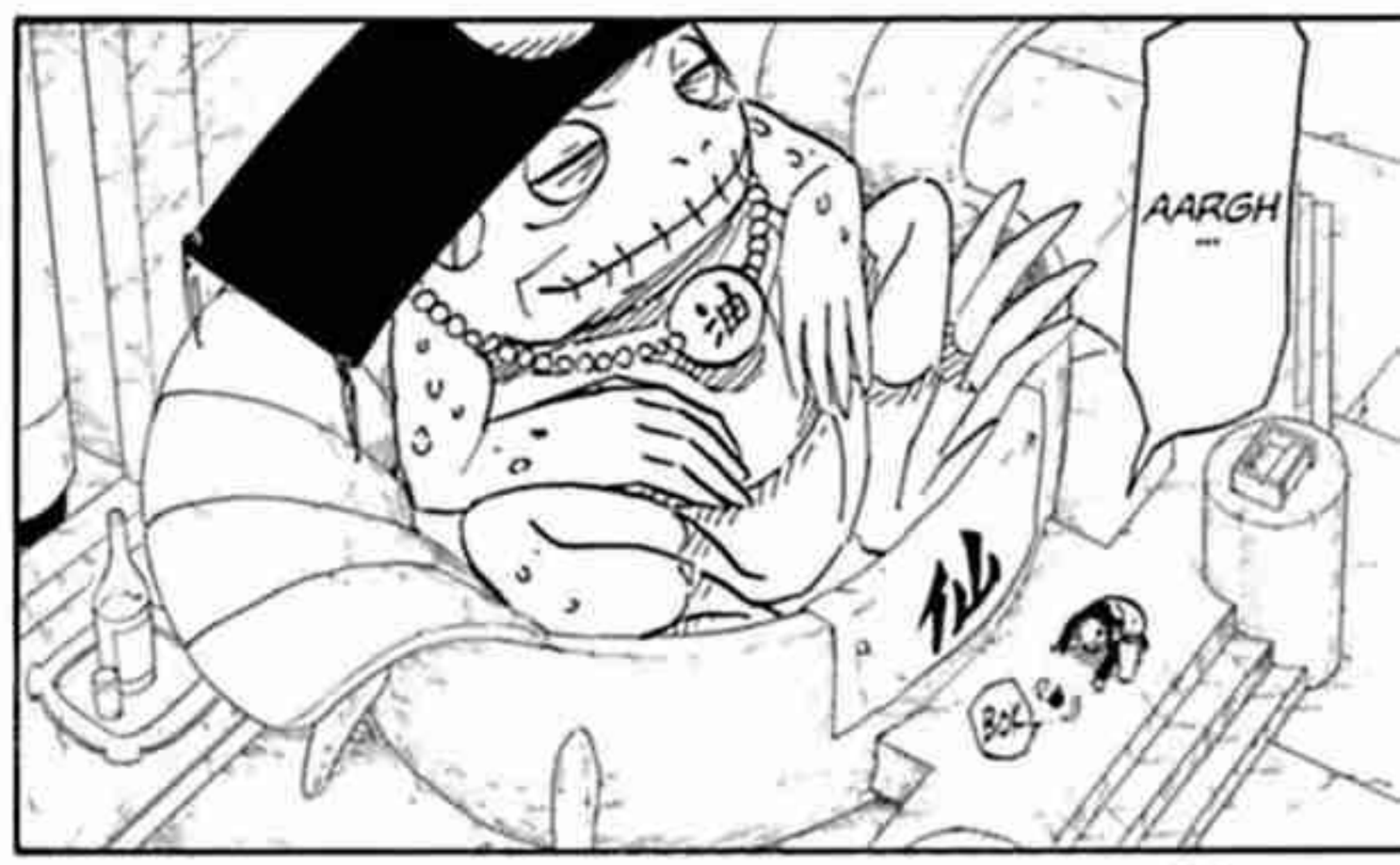
ULP

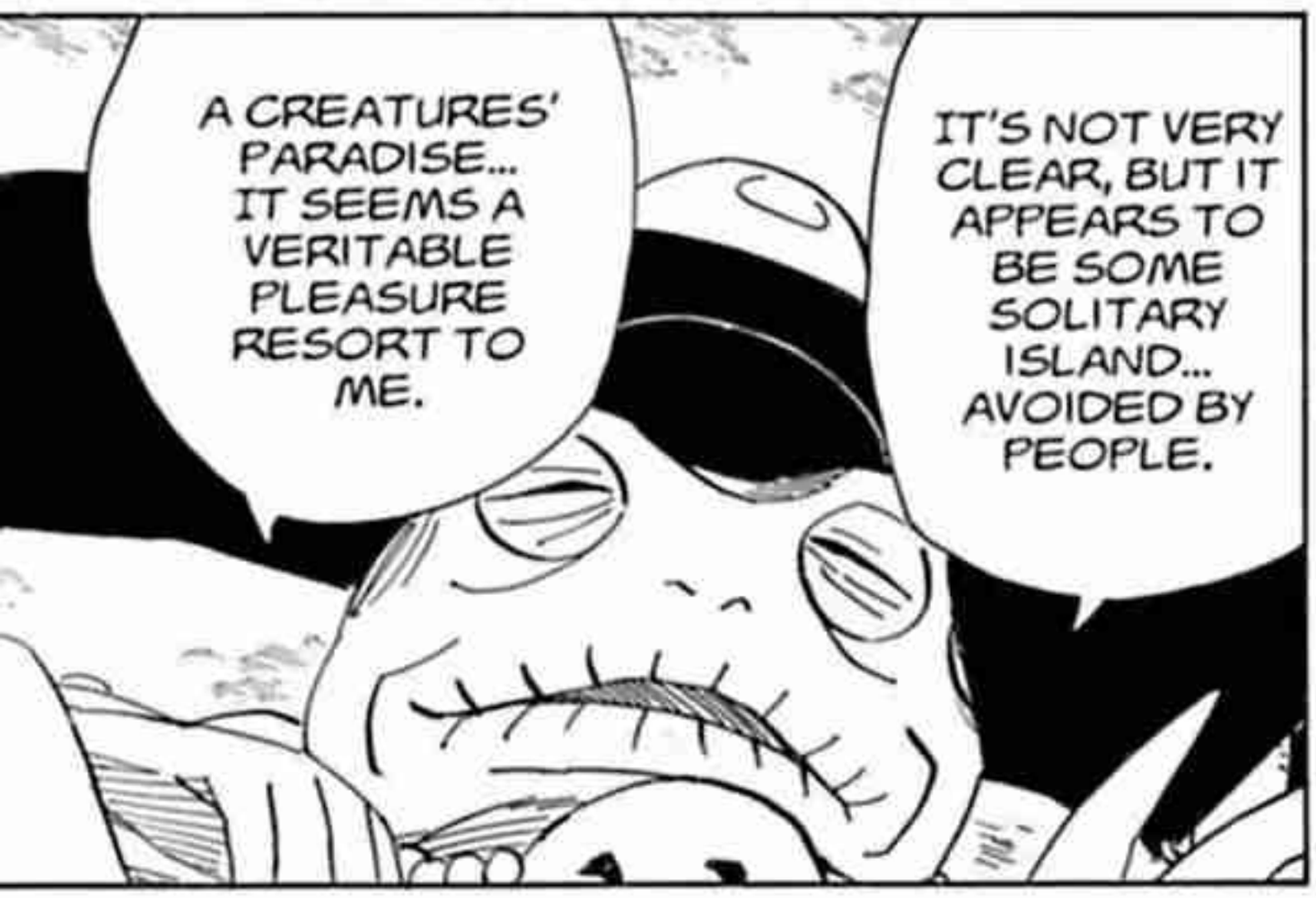
TREMBLE TREMBLE

HEY! OPEN UP WIDER!








A CREATURES' PARADISE... IT SEEMS A VERITABLE PLEASURE RESORT TO ME.
IT'S NOT VERY CLEAR, BUT IT APPEARS TO BE SOME SOLITARY ISLAND... AVOIDED BY PEOPLE.

WHERE DOES IT LIVE?
SO I NEED TO LOOK FOR AN OCTOPUS, RIGHT...
YOU GOT ANY OTHER CLUES?

WA
WELL THEN, GO ALONG HOME!
P

FSST
YESSIR!

IN ANY CASE, YOU SHALL LIKELY RECEIVE GUIDANCE.
I BELIEVE THAT IS WHERE THE OCTOPUS SHALL COOPERATE WITH YOU...

?!

BO

WHOA!!

?!

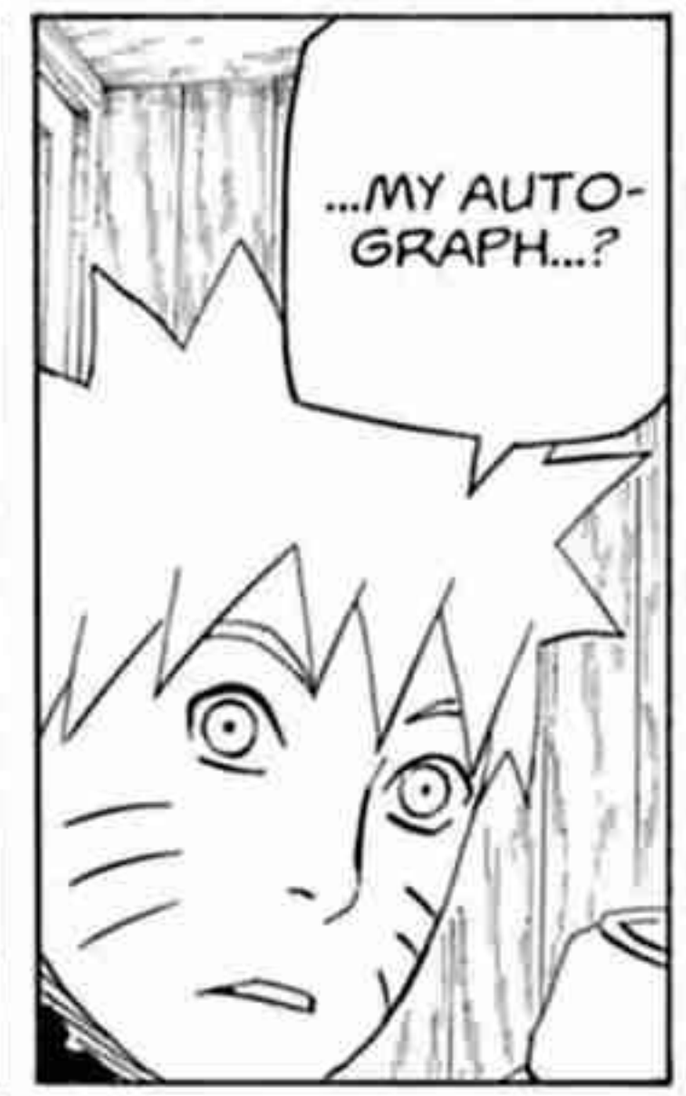
メンマ

ギョウザ

ラーメン

OF

READ THIS WAY



...AND COM-MENCE THE BODY OF THE MEETING.
LET US BE DONE WITH THE GREET-INGS...

...I AM RELIEVED TO SEE YOU BACK AS HOKAGE, LADY TSUNADE.
THE DANZO INCIDENT ASIDE...

...FENCE-SITTER GEEZER!!
YOU'RE THE LAST ONE I'D WANT TO HEAR **THAT** FROM...

YOU OUGHT TO HAVE HANDED THE REINS OVER TO A YOUNG 'UN... SINCE YOU'RE GETTING ON IN YEARS!
PRINCESS TSUNADE... YOU SURE YOU'RE UP TO THIS?

THE SITUATION CALLS FOR SWIFT ACTION.

YOU ALL CAME QUICK...

HOWEVER, IT MAY BE A TRAP... SO IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO GATHER SOME MORE INTEL FIRST.

MY SHINOBI HAVE PINNED DOWN A LOCATION THAT MAY BE THE ENEMY'S STRONGHOLD.

...AND ANY INFORMATION ON THE ENEMY'S STRONGHOLD AND BATTLE STRENGTH.

FIRST ON THE AGENDA ARE EIGHT TAILS' AND NINE TAILS' JINCHŪRIKI HOSTS...

HOW ABOUT FORMING A SEPARATE UNIT WITHIN THE ALLIED FORCE THAT JUST HANDLES INTEL?

WE ALSO HAVE ORGANIZED SCOUTING PARTIES, WHICH ARE COLLECTING DATA AS WE SPEAK.

WE MUST POOL AND SHARE EACH VILLAGE'S INTEL WITH EACH OTHER, QUICKLY.

WHAT IS IT?!

HIDE AWAY?!

SO... WHERE SHALL WE HIDE AWAY THE JINCHŪRIKI?

THAT SOUNDS GREAT!

CONSIDERING THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO, WE CAN'T LET THEM PARTICIPATE... THAT IS WHAT WE DECIDED LAST MEETING.

I INITIALLY THOUGHT SO AS WELL, BUT OUR ENEMY'S GOAL IN THIS WAR IS TO POSSESS THOSE TWO.

BOTH NARUTO AND BEE CAN LEND MUCH BATTLE STRENGTH !!

WHY HIDE THEM AWAY?!

NARUTO IS...

YOU STRIP-LING!

I KNOW HIM QUITE WELL...

YOUR SOLE DISSENT AS HOKAGE IS NOT SUFFICIENT. MAJORITY SHALL RULE.

OUR AIM IN THIS WAR IS TO PROTECT THOSE TWO.

IF WE HOLD BACK BATTLE STRENGTH AND LOSE OUR PROSPECT AT VICTORY, WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET A SECOND CHANCE!

OUR ENEMY IS UCHIHA MADARA!

WE NEED TO HIT HIM WITH ALL WE'VE—

THAT IS WHY.

HE TAKES TOO MANY RISKS, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO HIS COMRADES...

...LADY TSUNADE...
I ACTUALLY CONCUR WITH THE OTHERS...
GAH... FINE...

BEFORE WE BEGIN DISCUSSING BATTLE STRENGTH...
...THE GOKAGE MUST BE IN AGREEMENT, OR ELSE THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF VICTORY.

...

NO, NO...
JUST HURRY IT UP SO WE CAN MOVE ON!

WE SHALL NOW DECIDE THE HIDING PLACE OF EIGHT TAILS AND NINE TAILS.
ANY OBJEC-TIONS, HOKAGE?
THAT RETORT PROVES ALL IS WELL... THAT THE SLUG PRINCESS IS BACK IN GOOD HEALTH.

AND IT IS APPROPRIATELY LOCATED IN KUMOGAKURE, WHICH HAS NOT PRODUCED ANY AKATSUKI MEMBERS.
HEH... I'VE GOT JUST THE SITE IN MIND... IT'S A SPECIAL SPOT.

READ THIS WAY
I'VE BEEN SENT ON A TOP-SECRET MISSION TO A SOLITARY ISLAND PARADISE, SO THIS MUST BE DIVINE PROVIDENCE!
AN OCTOPUS, EH...
IT'S JUST AS THE VISION FORE-TOLD.
IT IS A CERTAIN SOLITARY ISLAND WHERE BEE AND I ONCE TRAINED.
IT'S TRUE!
HEY, THE ISLAND'S COMING INTO VIEW!
PLEASE START PREPAR-ING FOR LANDFALL.
GOOD... IT LOOKS LIKE NARUTO HASN'T CAUGHT ON YET.

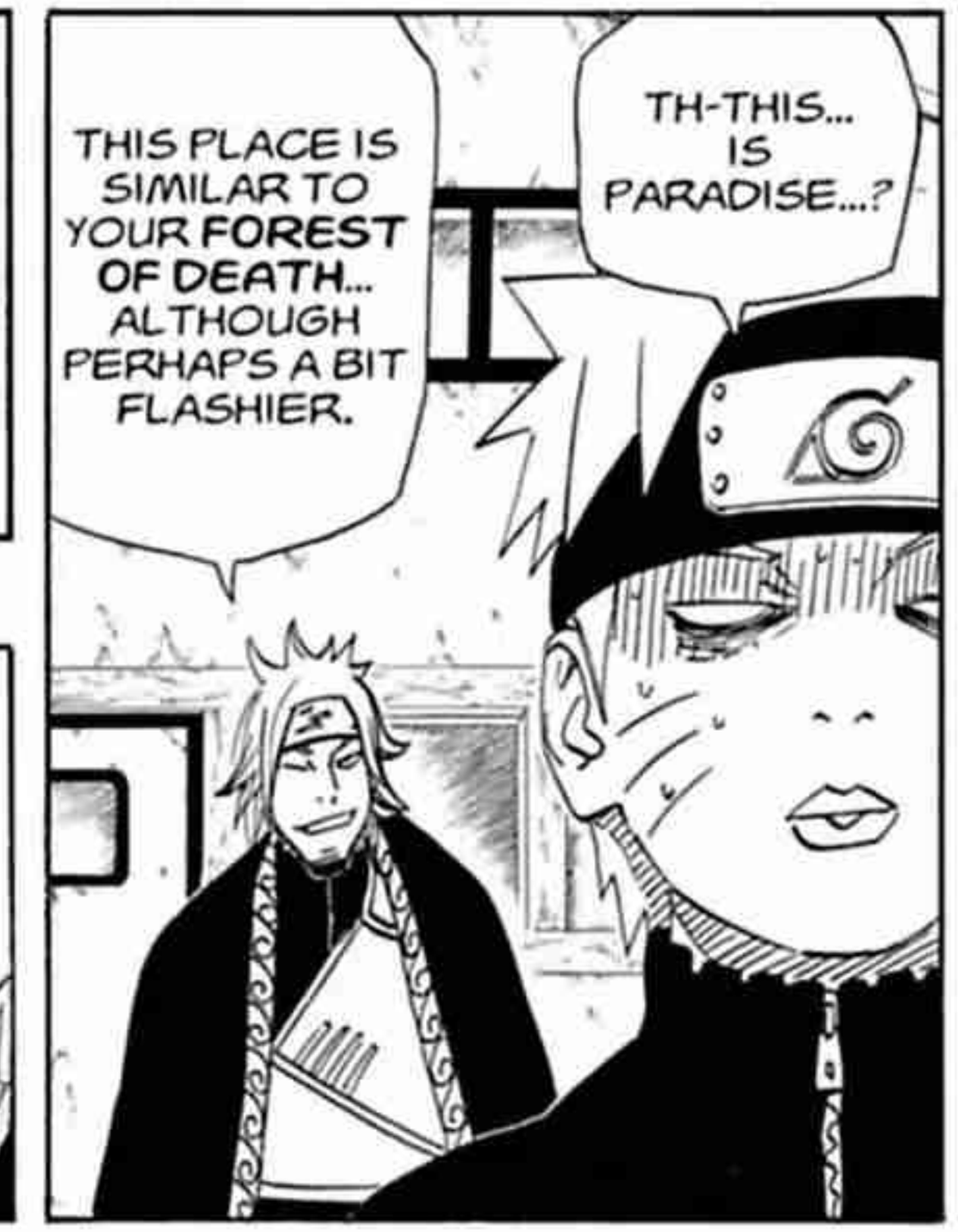
GRR

SKREEE

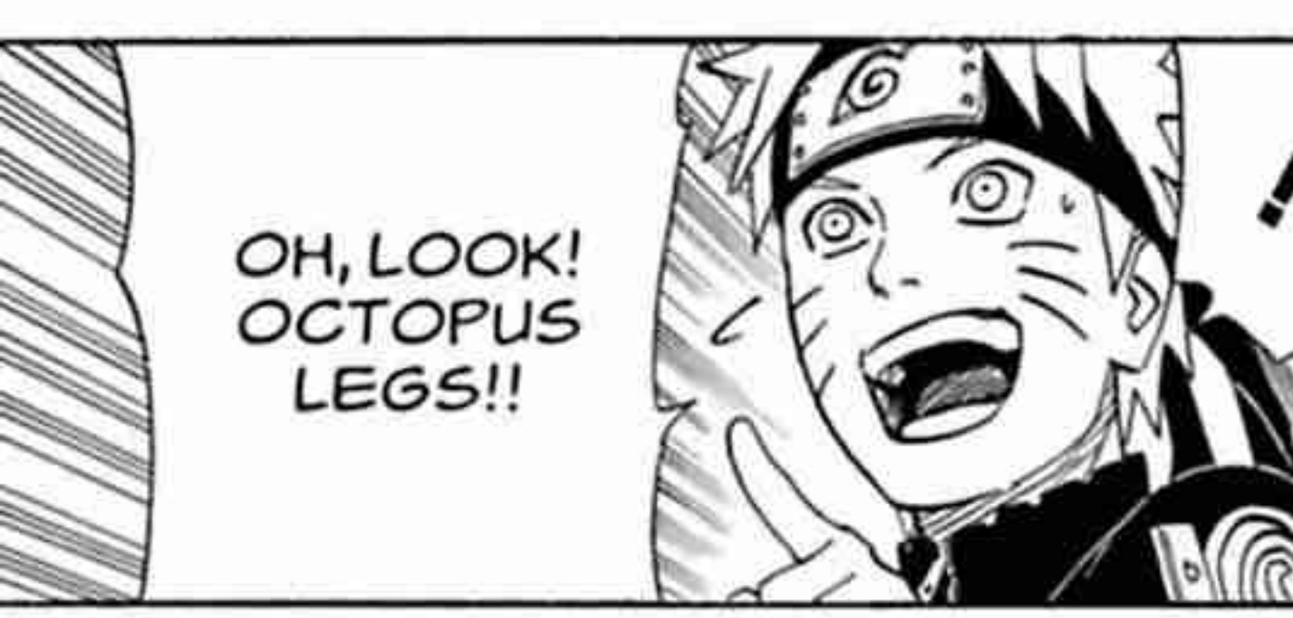
GROWWWR

SKREEE

EXCEPT...
BUT NO WORRIES... AS LONG AS YOU DON'T PROVOKE THEM, THE BEASTS WILL LEAVE YOU ALONE.


TH-THIS... IS PARADISE...?
THIS PLACE IS SIMILAR TO YOUR FOREST OF DEATH... ALTHOUGH PERHAPS A BIT FLASHIER.

YOU STINK, GIANT GRAMPS SAGE!!
WHAT ABOUT THIS IS A PARA-DISE?!!
EXCEPT WHAT?


OH, LOOK! OCTOPUS LEGS!!
!

SWOO...
SWOO...
...FOR ONE, WHO LIVES ALONG THE SHORE-LINE...

NARUTO... I ACTUALLY THINK HE'S...
NOW, OCTOPUS !!
PLEASE COME AND GUIDE ME...!!
TWINKLE

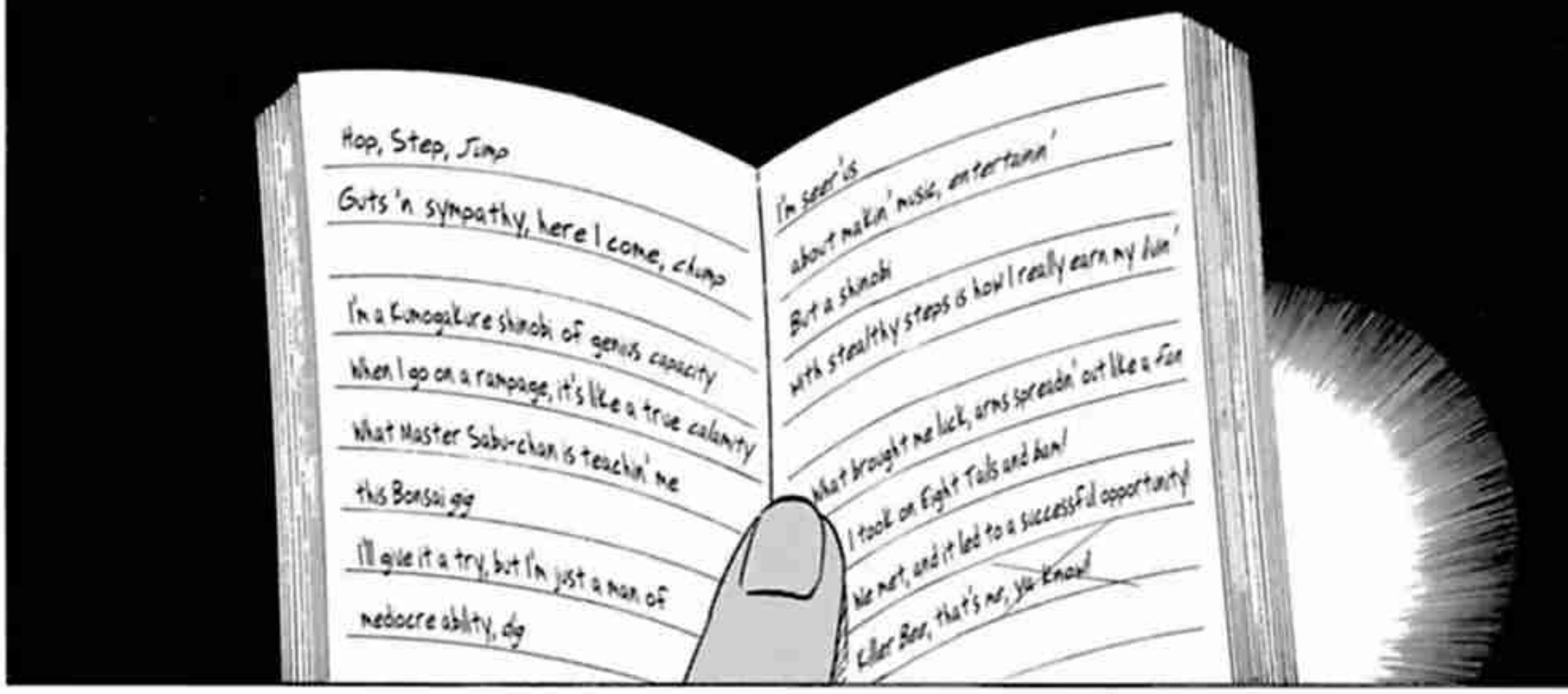
WHAT?!!!
IT'S HIM!!! I-I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TELL YOU THAT HE'S THE ONLY ONE YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT, AND VOILÀ!!
HUH?!
PITTER
SHRRRRL
BUT I HAVE TO MAKE SURE... SQUID HAVE TEN LEGS, WHILE OCTOPI HAVE EIGHT...
YOU DON'T NEED TO COUNT THE NUMBER OF LEGS... YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING!
NARUTO, C'MON!!
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE, SIX...
NARUTO !!
WHOA!
ZWOOOSH
...A SQUID !!!

SPLOOSH
THAT'S... AN OCTOPUS?
TAK
THIS ONE'S AN OCTOPUS!
WHOA
OCTO-PUS!!
FOUR, FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT...
POP
KILLER BEE? YOU MEAN... HE'S...?
LORD KILLER BEE!!
Y'ALL ARE LATE, YO, FOOLS YA FOOLS!
ZWOOO
WE'RE DONE FOR!!!
WHAT THE?!! HERE COMES ANOTHER ONE, SPOUTING WEIRD PUNS!!!
SQUID, GO DEVIATE; THE REST, I ABBREVIATE !!! ♪
SPLASH

鉄

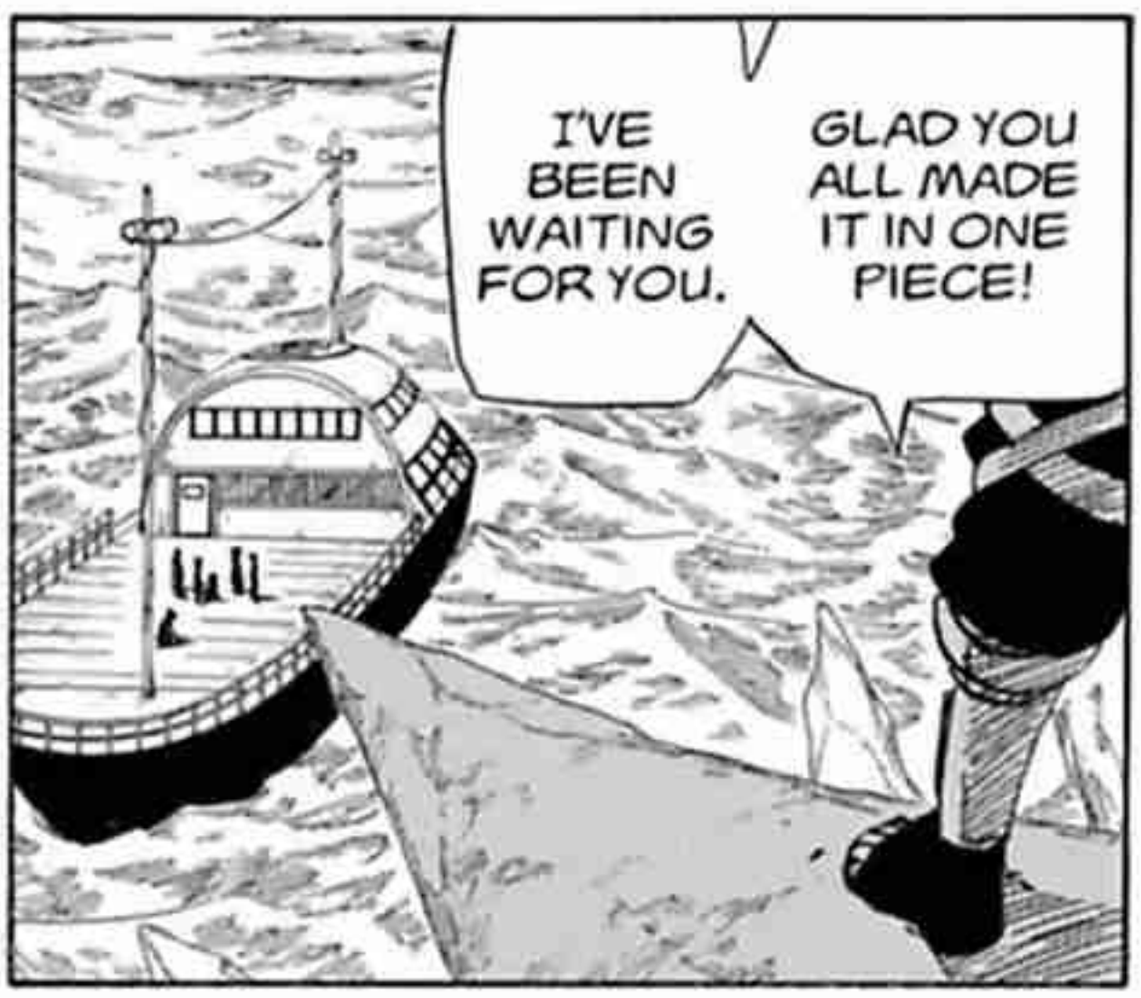
ZWOOO

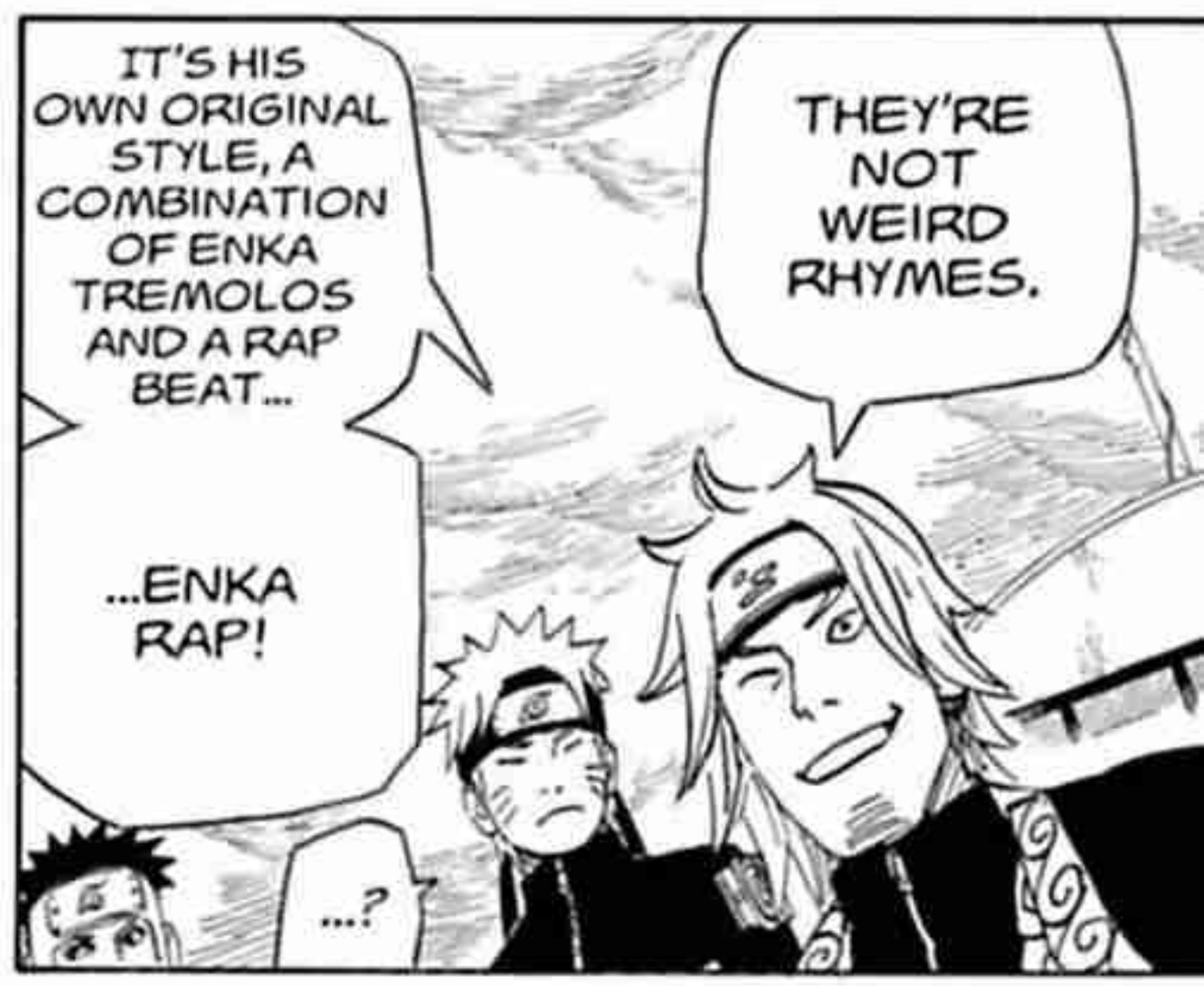
# Number 492: Salutations


Hop, Step, Jump
Guts 'n sympathy, here I come, chump
I'm a Konogakure shinobi of genius capacity
When I go on a rampage, it's like a true calamity
What Master Sabu-chan is teachin' me
this Bonsai gig
I'll give it a try, but I'm just a man of
mediocre ability, dig
I'm seer'ds
about makin' music, entertainin'
But a shinobi
with stealthy steps is how I really earn my livin'
What brought me luck, arms spreadin' out like a fan
I took on Eight Tails and won!
Me not, and it led to a successful opportunity!
Uhn Bee, that's me, you know!

WHO'S THIS SHADES-WEARING MEATHEAD WITH THE WEIRD RHYMES?
THIS GEEZER IS MY OCTOPUS MENTOR?

I'M A BRAT-HATING OUTLAW, TEE HEE ♪
IF I DARE SAY, IT'LL BE A NO-GO, WHEE ♪
...WILL WE CLASH OR BE A SMASH?
...
...


I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
GLAD YOU ALL MADE IT IN ONE PIECE!


IT'S HIS OWN ORIGINAL STYLE, A COMBINATION OF ENKA TREMOLOS AND A RAP BEAT...
THEY'RE NOT WEIRD RHYMES.
...ENKA RAP!
...?

READ THIS WAY
KRZZ...
UNNH... ARE WE THERE YET...?
UGH...
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT SEASICK.
FOLLOW ME NOW TO YOUR LODGINGS.
I AM SUPERVISOR MOTOI.
SKREE
SKREE
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU DON'T HAVE SEA LEGS, GUY.
YOU OKAY, MASTER GUY?

WOO-HOO!!
AAARGH...!

RAWR!!

STAND DOWN, KING-CHAN! THEY'RE WITH ME.

MASTER BEE STANDS AT THE TOP OF THIS ISLAND'S HIERARCHY OF BEASTS. HE HAS TAMED THEM ALL.
THIS PLACE IS SAFE AS LONG AS HE IS HERE.

THIS...IS A GORILLA...?
A GORILLA, IT'S A GORILLA !!
WUH WUH...

WE KNOW IMMEDIATELY IF ANYTHING APPROACHES.

AS WELL, KUMOGAKURE'S PREEMINENT SHINOBI MAINTAIN THE BARRIER AROUND THE ISLAND.

HE'S KUMO-GAKURE'S HERO AMONG HEROES.

SO WHAT'S UP WITH THAT SHADES-WEARING POPS?

WHICH IS WHY THIS PLACE WAS SELECTED TO DETAIN THEM.

OF EIGHT TAILS.

...A JINCHÛRIKI, JUST LIKE YOU.

...BUT EVEN THE EIGHT-TAILED BIJU COMPLETELY UNDER HIS CONTROL...

SOMEONE WHO NOT ONLY HAS THESE BEASTS...

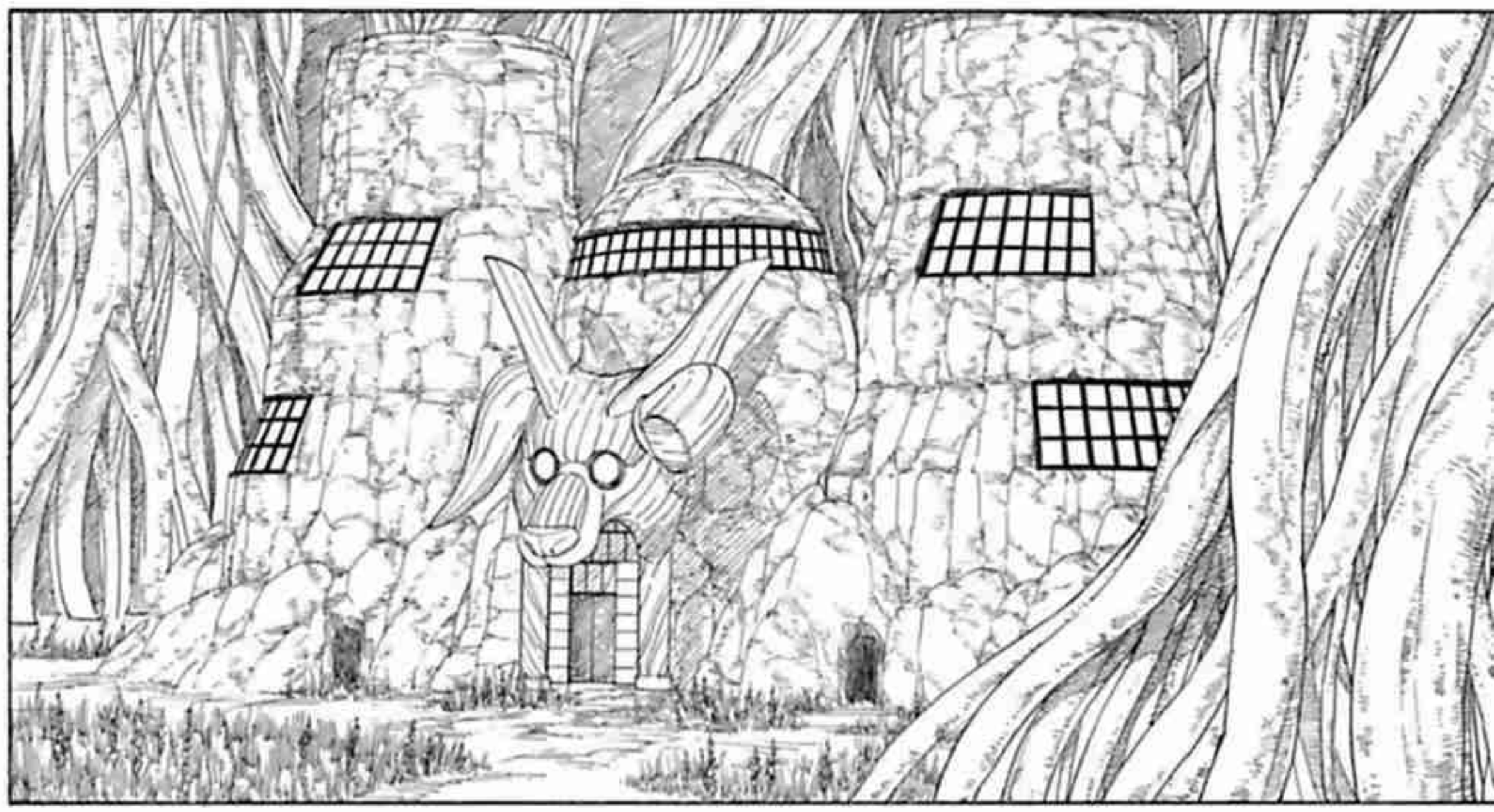
HE'S MASTER KILLER BEE.

HE'S EIGHT TAILS'... JINCHÛRIKI...?
AND... HE CAN CONTROL HIM? THAT OLD OCTOPOPS?

THIS ISLAND... IS WHERE HE TRAINED TO GAIN CONTROL OVER EIGHT TAILS.
!

...

YO ♪
BUMP



...AAH, THE YA KNOW BRAT... WAZUP? YOU WANT MY AUTOGRAPH OR SOMETHIN'?
TRAIN ME!
TRAIN?

KNOCK
KNOCK

BUT I'M NOT ABLE TO CONTROL NINE TAILS YET...
I'M NINE TAILS' JINCHÛRIKI.

SO PLEASE TEACH ME HOW TO CONTROL A BIJU!
...

WHY SHOULD I GIVE UP THAT RARE VACATION FOR THE LIKES OF YOU, YA FOOL!

NO WAY...

I CAME HERE 'CAUSE BROTHER RAIKAGE ORDERED ME TO GET SOME R'N R.

YO!
FSH

GOOD STYLE, BOY!
YES! HE LIKES ME!!
URRR

...

FIRST, AN EXCHANGE OF SALUTATIONS! TAP YOUR FIST AGAINST MINE...
...WHILE YOU KEEP RAPPIN'!
?

CRUD!!!
OH!
...

...YA SEEM A BIT SUSPEC...
OCTOPOPS, WIT'YA SUNSPECTS ♪
BUMP

FWP
TIME TO WHIP OUT PLAN B!!

MMMMMMMMM

NINJA HAREM!!

I PROMISE, I'M A GOOD PROSPECT... ♪

YO

SEE, I'M BEGGIN' ON MY KNEES, FULL O'RESPECT ♪

WHAT IS IT?!

I BET THERE'S SOME OTHER OCTOPUS OUT THERE THAT'S THE REAL ONE!
WHAT'S HIS DEAL?! QUOTING WEIRD RHYMES ALL THE TIME!
BANG
BANG

HE WON'T GIVE ME ANY TIME!
OH... YOU MEAN MASTER BEE'S TRAINING?
SO I'M COMING TO YOU!

HE LEARNED THEM HERE, RIGHT?
TEACH ME THE DRILLS THAT SHADES-WEARING OCTOPOPS USED TO GAIN CONTROL OVER EIGHT TAILS!

YOU'D THINK ANOTHER JINCHŪRIKI WOULD UNDERSTAND!!
AND...
I DON'T CARE IF HE'S KUMOGAKURE'S HERO!
HE'S MEAN AND STUBBORN AND KEEPS QUOTING WEIRD RHYMES!

ME...?

...?!

YOINK

STOP TALKING BEFORE YOU SAY SOMETHING UNFORGIVABLE!

YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT MASTER BEE!

AND HE SHOULD UNDERSTAND WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH, DON'T YOU THINK?!

YEAH, I DO!

...YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE WITH SUCH A BURDEN!

IF YOU'RE ALSO A JINCHÛRIKI...

HEY... HAVE YOU EXCHANGED SALUTATIONS?

...HUH?

FSH
I'M SURE HE HAD HIS REASONS TONIGHT.
...DON'T WORRY, MASTER BEE IS WATCHING OVER YOU.

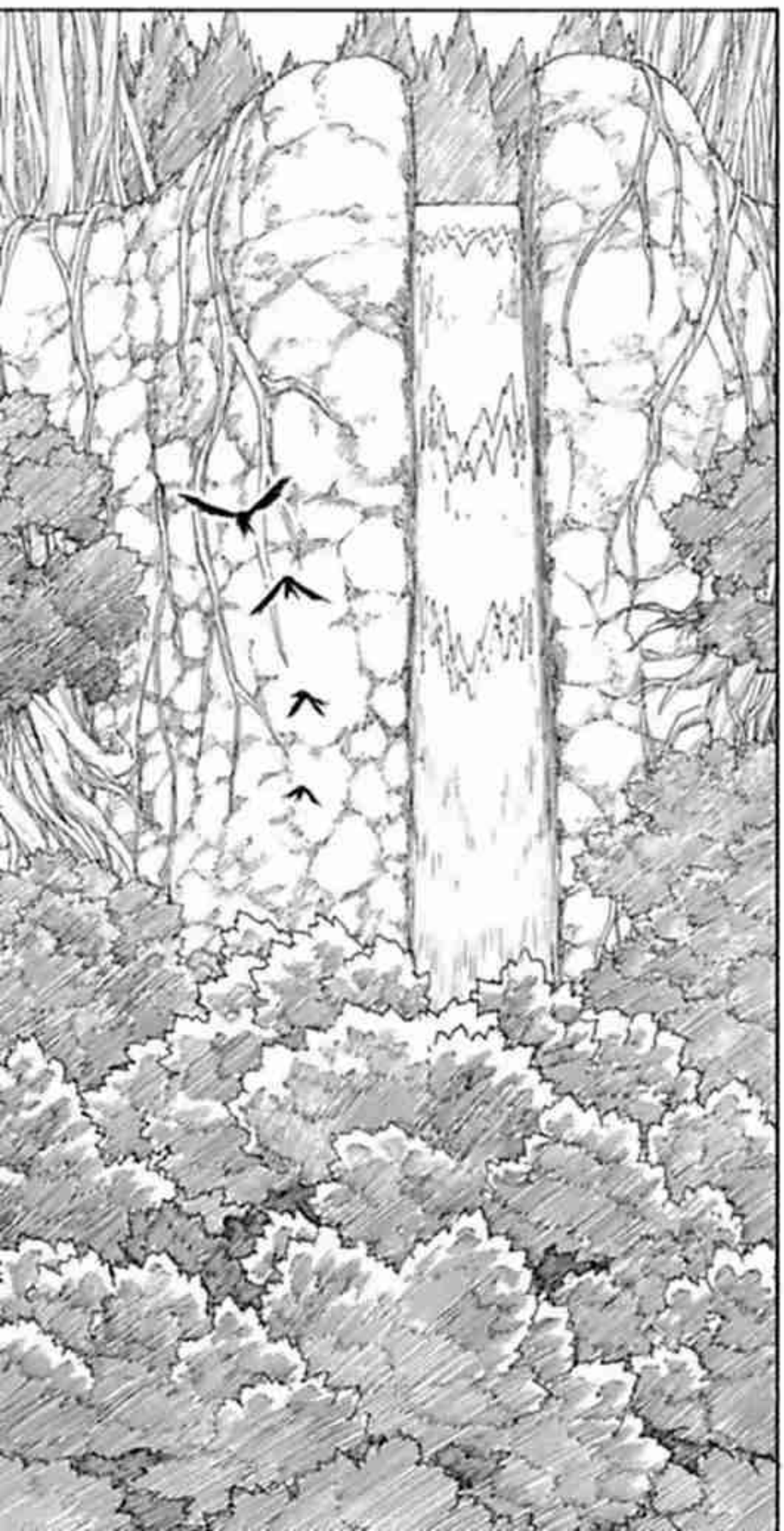
TAP YOUR FIST AGAINST MINE...
FIRST, AN EXCHANGE OF SALUTA-TIONS!
失

SALUTA-TIONS...?

...

WE DID THIS FIST-BUMPING THING...

ALL RIGHT... NARUTO, IS IT?
COME FOLLOW ME!
I'LL TAKE YOU TO MASTER BEE'S TRAINING GROUNDS.



ZING

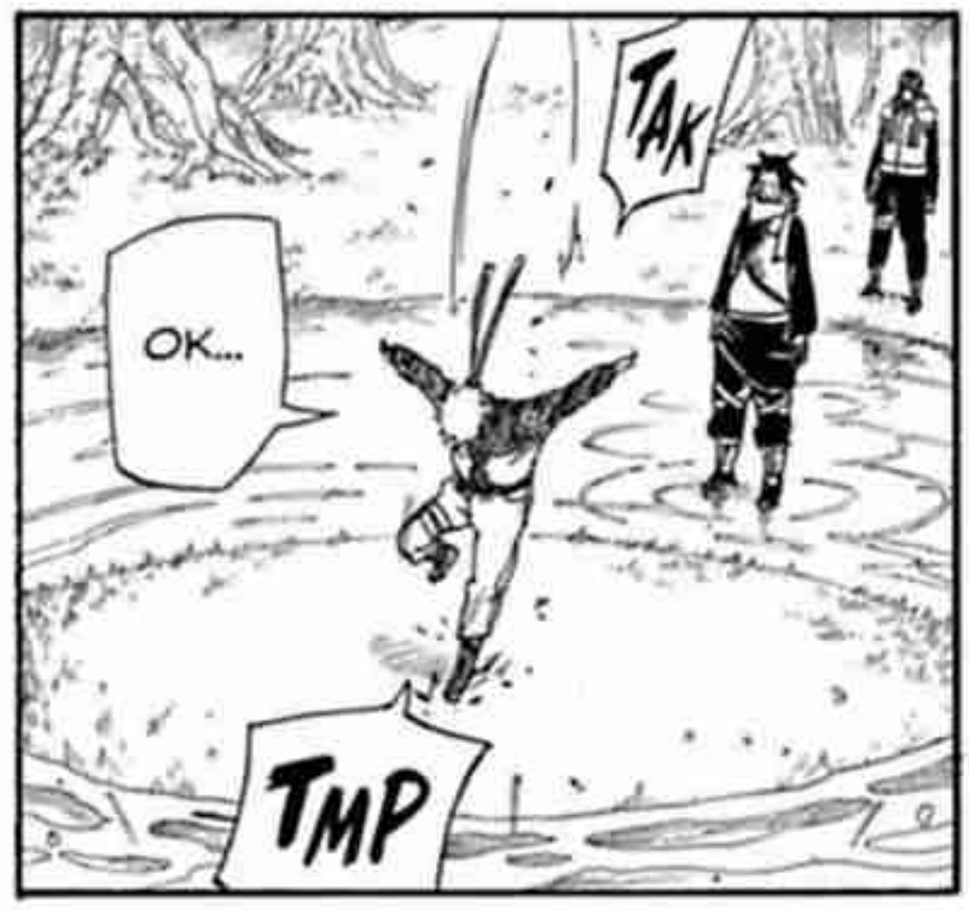
I'LL TAG ALONG.
FSH...
I AM NARUTO'S SUPERVISOR AND A WOOD STYLER.

HO... SO YOU'RE WOOD STYLE... VERY WELL.

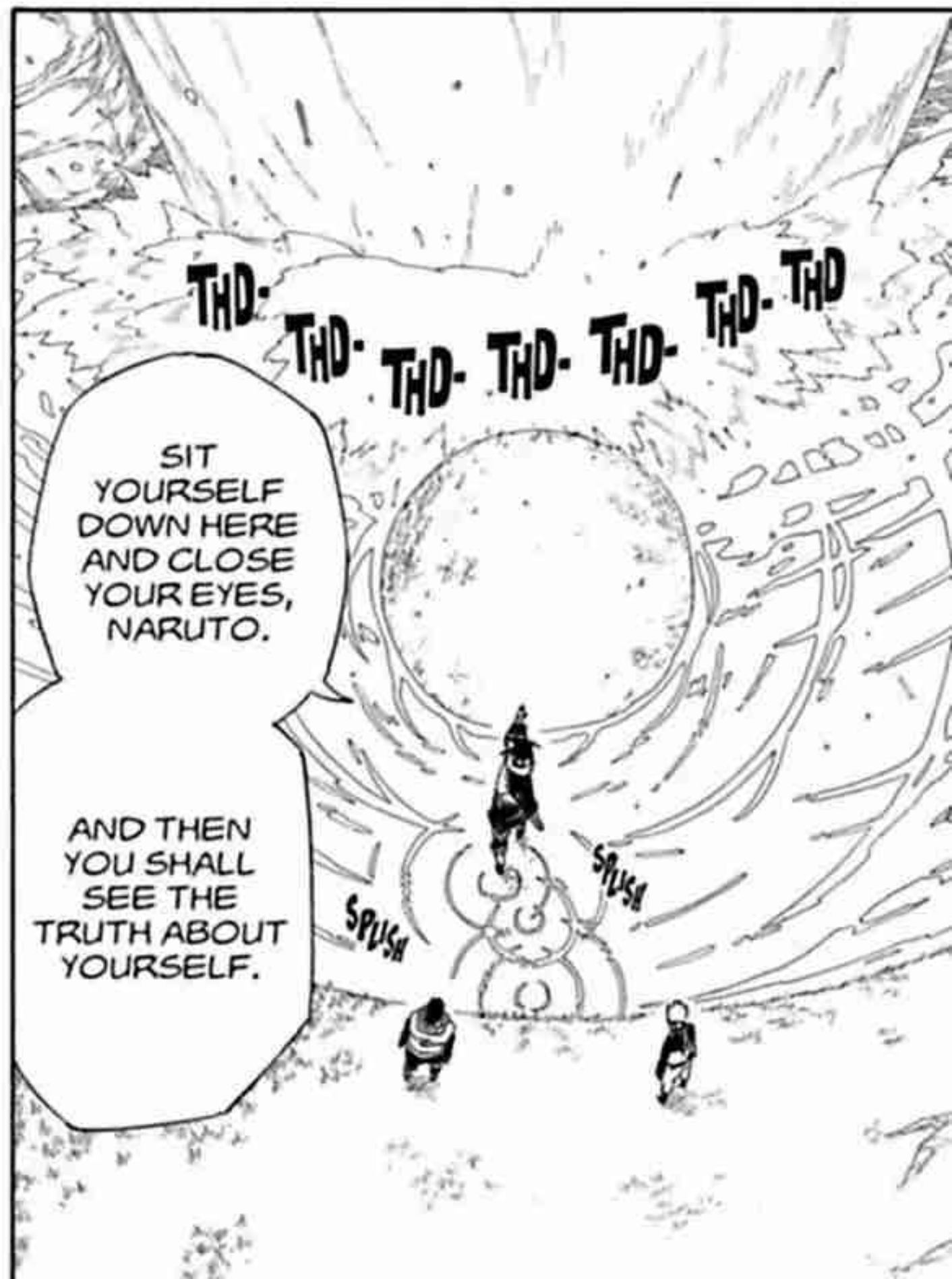
NO...
THE WATER-FALL OF TRUTH...?
THIS IS WHERE HE LEARNED HOW TO CONTROL HIS BIJU...?

THIS IS A PRELIMINARY STEP.
SHUP
HUH?

THD-THD-THD...
YES... THIS PLACE IS CALLED THE WATERFALL OF TRUTH.
THIS IS IT?


OK...
TAK
TMP

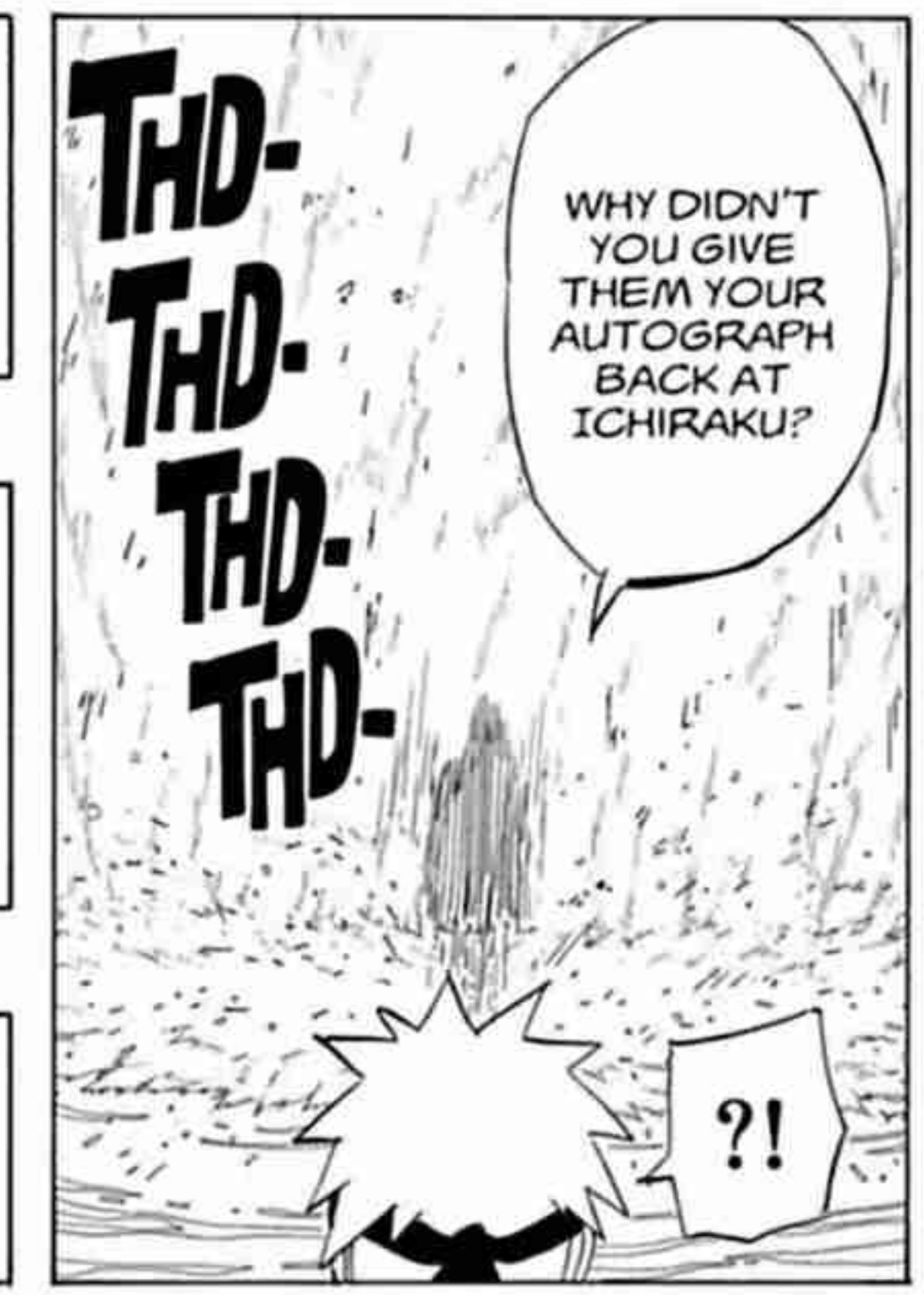
FSH


THD-THD-THD-THD-THD-THD-THD
SIT YOURSELF DOWN HERE AND CLOSE YOUR EYES, NARUTO.
AND THEN YOU SHALL SEE THE TRUTH ABOUT YOURSELF.
SPLUSH
SPLUSH

WHAT?!

SPLOSH
SPLOSH
CAN'T BLAME YOU... SINCE THEY CAME KISSING UP TO YOU LIKE THAT...

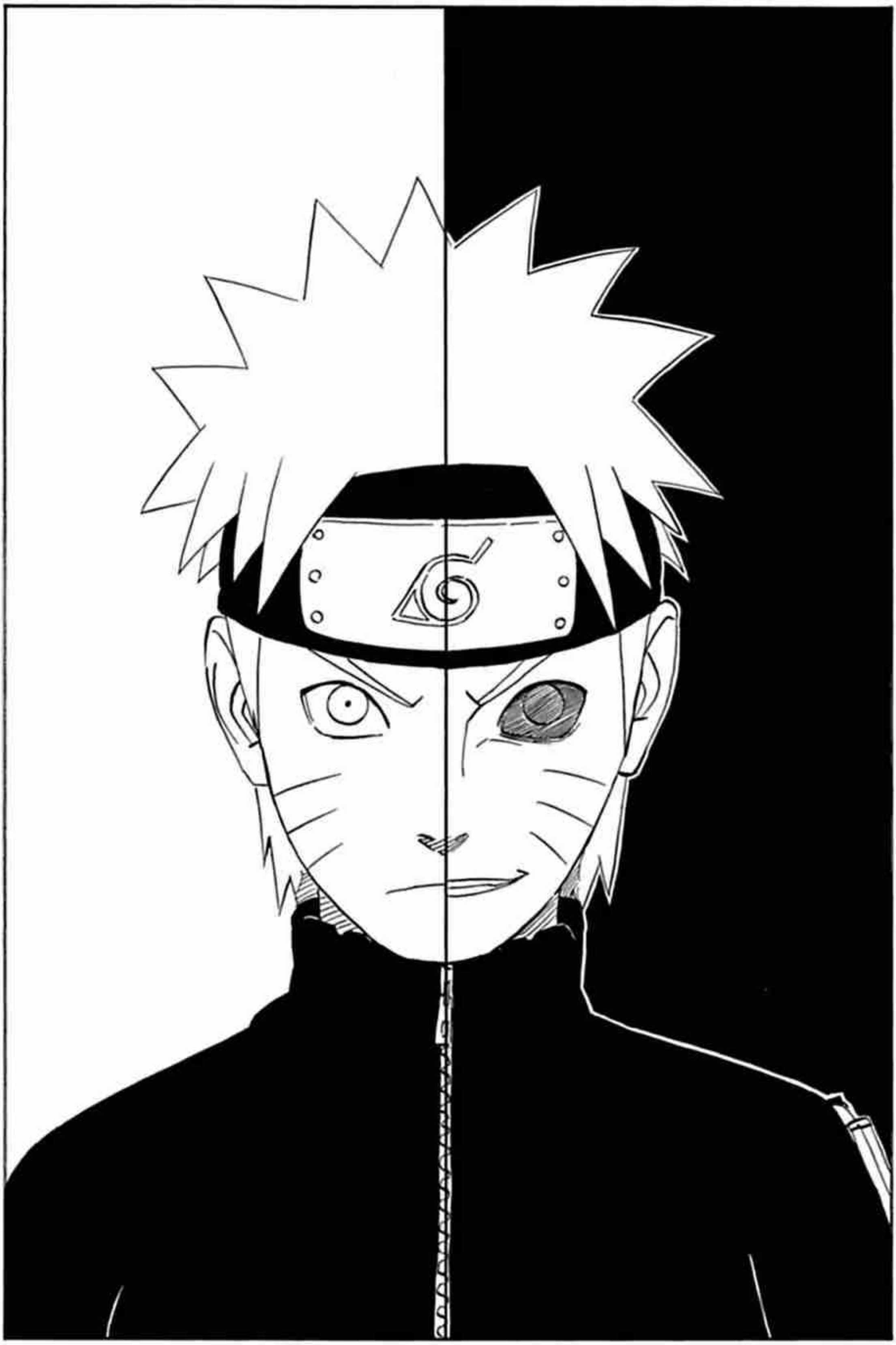
?!


THD-
THD-
THD-
WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE THEM YOUR AUTOGRAPH BACK AT ICHIRAKU?
?!

SPLASH
SPLASH
WEREN'T THEY ALL JUST COMPLETELY DISGUSTING...?

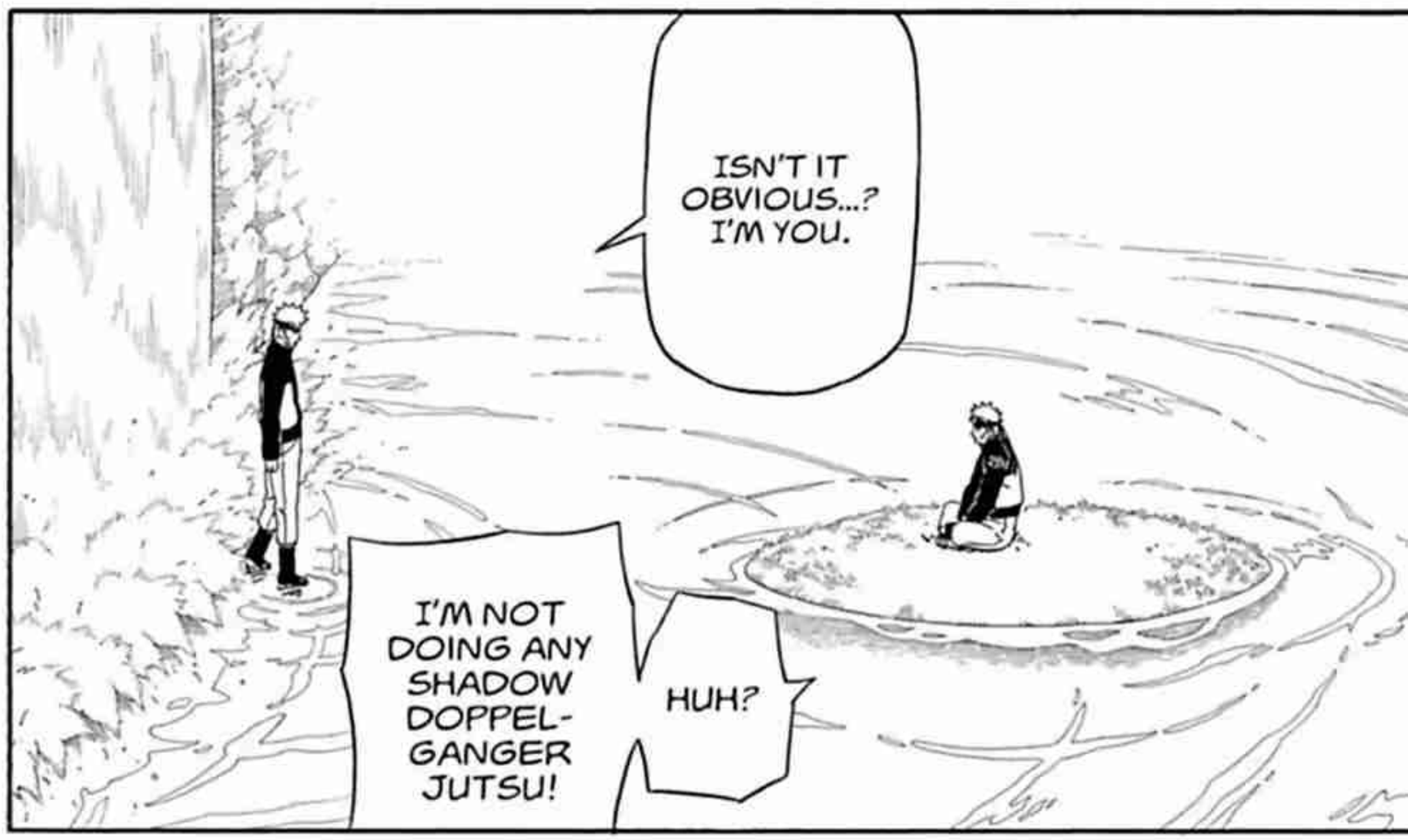
NARUTO

# Number 493: Dark Naruto!!



HE LOOKS JUST LIKE ME...
WHO ARE YOU?!

THE VILLAGERS MADE US OUTCASTS. AND THEN THIS?


ISN'T IT OBVIOUS...? I'M YOU.
I'M NOT DOING ANY SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER JUTSU!
HUH?

I DON'T KNOW YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
STOP LYING!

I LIVE IN YOUR HEART.
I AM YOU.

READ THIS WAY

...IS THAT NINE TAILS LIKES ME A LOT.

SHWA
THWA

ON THIS ISLE, I'M DA TOP DOG ♪

TAKIN' Y'ALL DOWN LIKE A WHIRLWIND CLEARIN' DA FOG ♪

WHINE...

YA STILL GOT A WAYS TO GO, KINTOKI-CHAN.

MUF
MUF
MUF
MUF
MUF

SSH...
...EVER!
YOU CAN'T STOP ME...

...WE HAVE THE EXACT SAME STRENGTH... THIS IS NEVER GOING TO END...
SSH...
UNH!

THEN I'LL OVERWHELM YOU WITH NUMBERS!!
BBBOOM
SHADOW DOPPELGANGERS!!!

BBT

SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS!!

BOOF

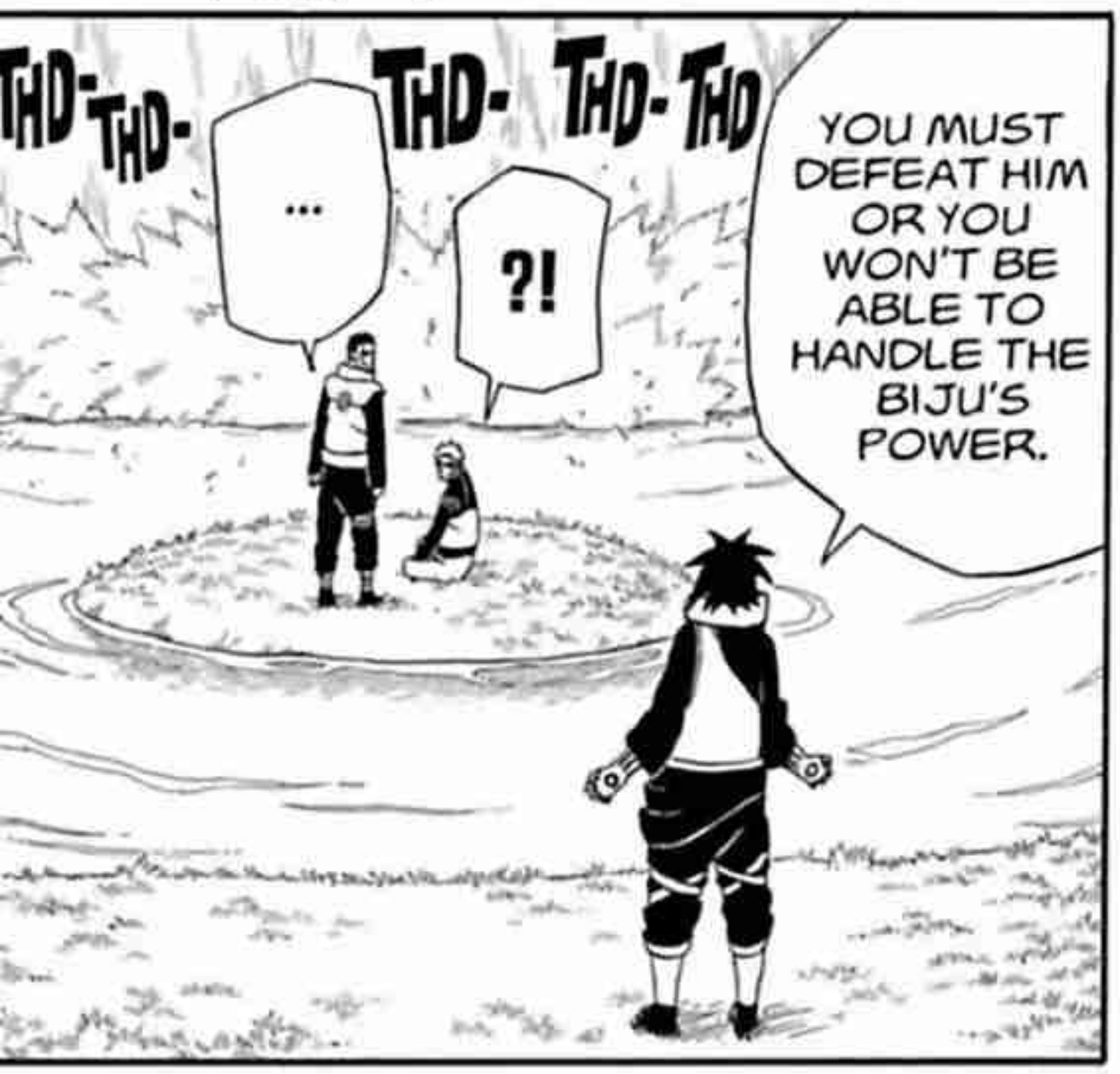
!
?!
GASP!!
HUF
HUF

NARUTO, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
SOMEONE... WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE ME...! AND HE...
WHAT HAP-PENED?!
HUF
HUF
SHUP
WHAT?

...WAS MY DARK HALF.
HUF
HUF
HUF

...!

...


THD-THD-
THD- THD-THD
...
?!
YOU MUST DEFEAT HIM OR YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE BIJU'S POWER.

SAME JUTSU, BATTLE PATTERNS, SAME TRICKS...
WE WERE JUST THE SAME, SAME STRENGTH...
...IT WAS GONNA GO ON FOREVER!

NAH... HE'S NOT GOING TO TELL ME...
...

!
I CAN ASK HIM...!
OCTOPOPS TRAINED HERE TOO, RIGHT?!

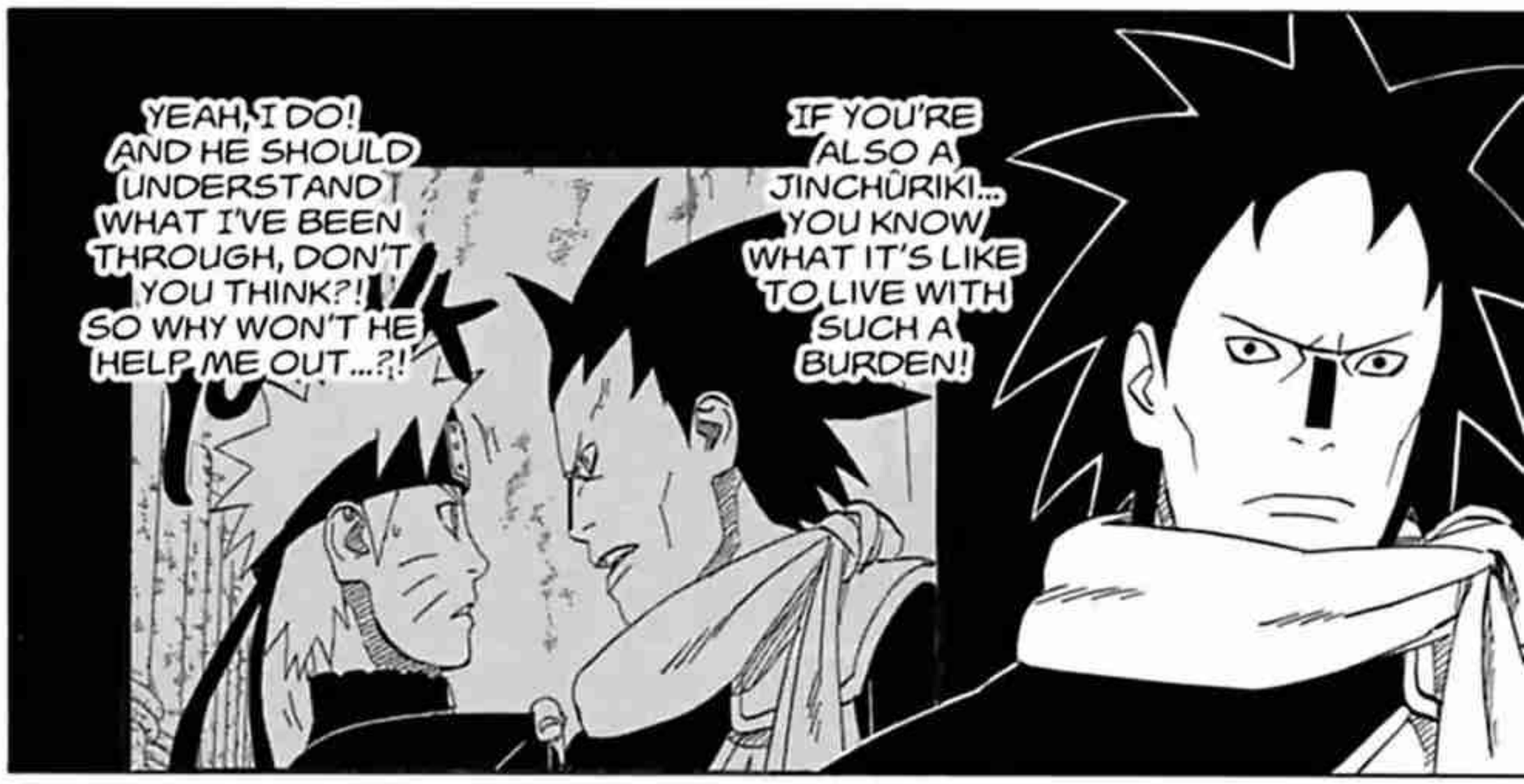
WELL... THAT I DON'T KNOW...
HOW??!

DID OCTOPOPS HAVE A DARK HALF...?
...

PERHAPS...

MAYBE I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S DIFFERENT BETWEEN US!

LIKE HOW HE GREW UP, WHAT HE'S LIKE... MAYBE I CAN FIND SOME HINTS IN THERE!
HEY, MOTOI, CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT OCTOPOPS...?
SSH

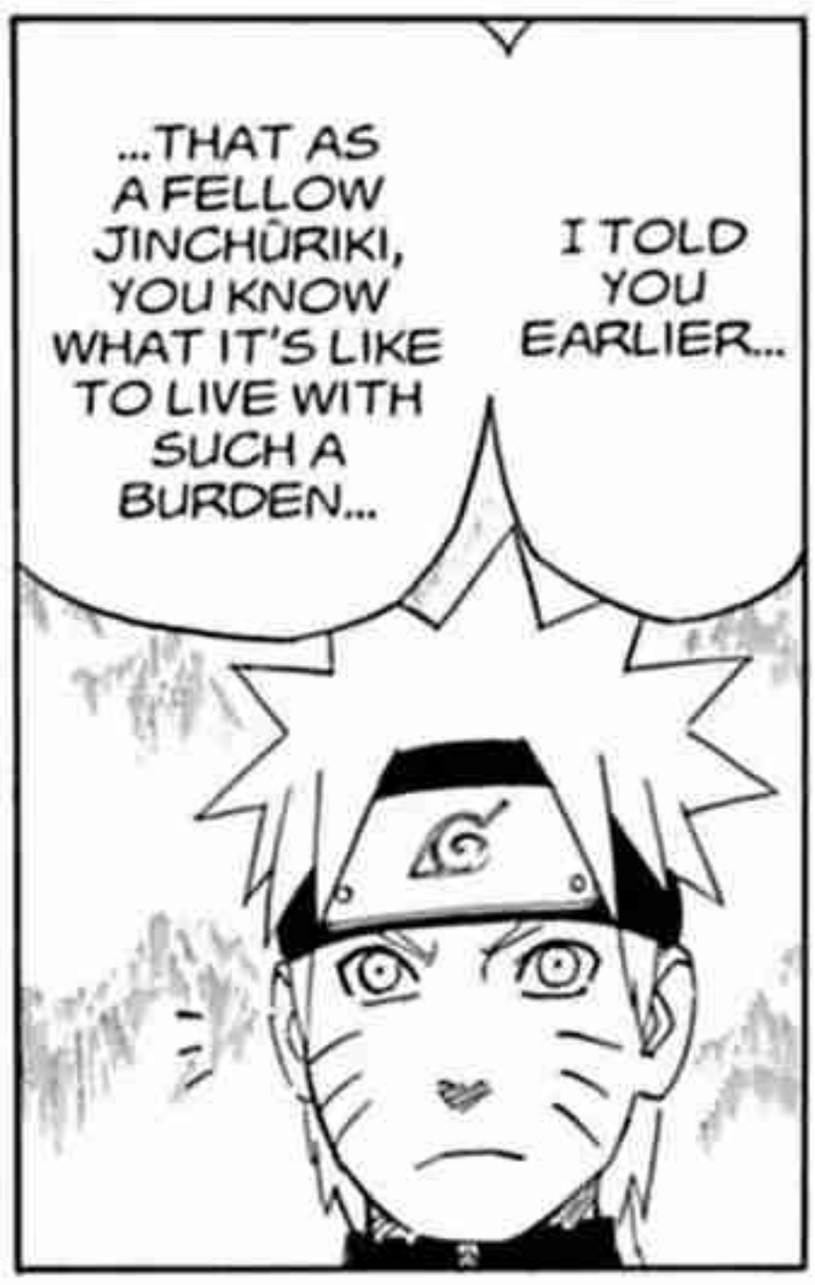

YEAH, I DO! AND HE SHOULD UNDERSTAND WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH, DON'T YOU THINK?! SO WHY WON'T HE HELP ME OUT...?!
IF YOU'RE ALSO A JINCHÛRIKI... YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE WITH SUCH A BURDEN!

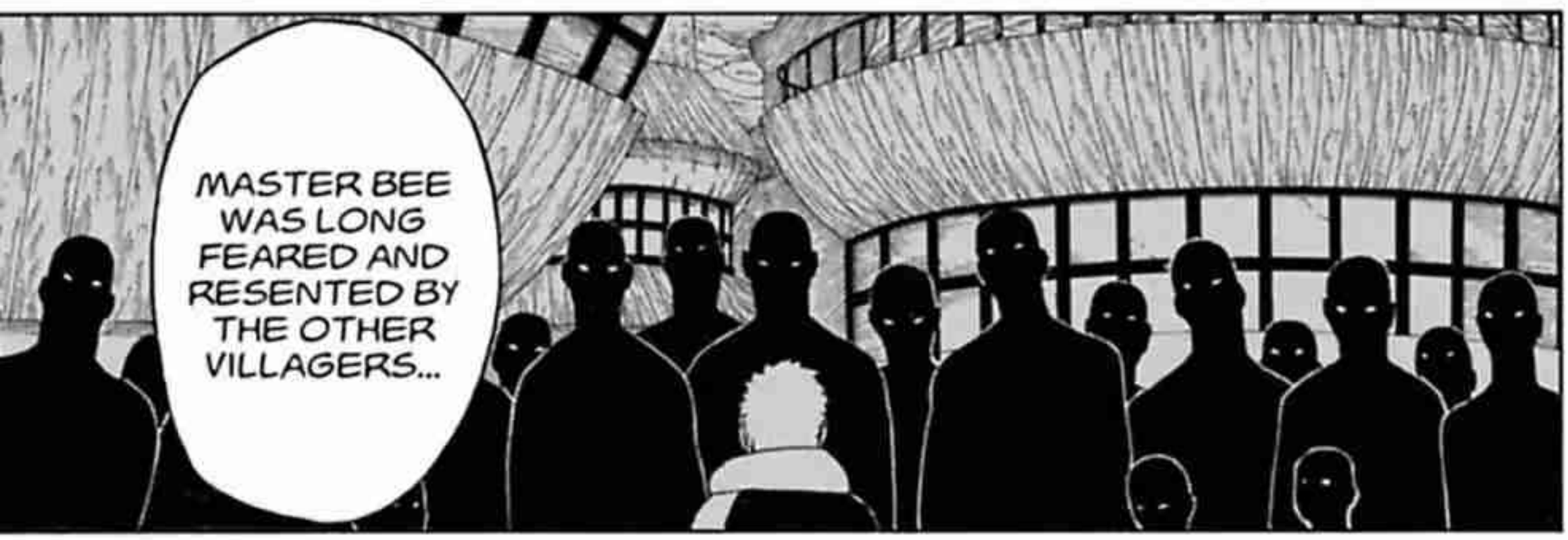
AND STABILIZING NINE TAILS WILL HELP LEAD TO WORLD PEACE... SO I'LL DO IT.
...BUT, NARUTO... YOU'RE A JINCHÛRIKI JUST LIKE MASTER BEE...
THANK YOU!!

I DON'T NORMALLY PRATTLE ON ABOUT OTHERS...

...

...INCREDIBLE POWER BREEDS DREAD AND ILL FEELINGS.
AS YOU CAN IMAGINE...


...THAT AS A FELLOW JINCHÛRIKI, YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE WITH SUCH A BURDEN...
I TOLD YOU EARLIER...

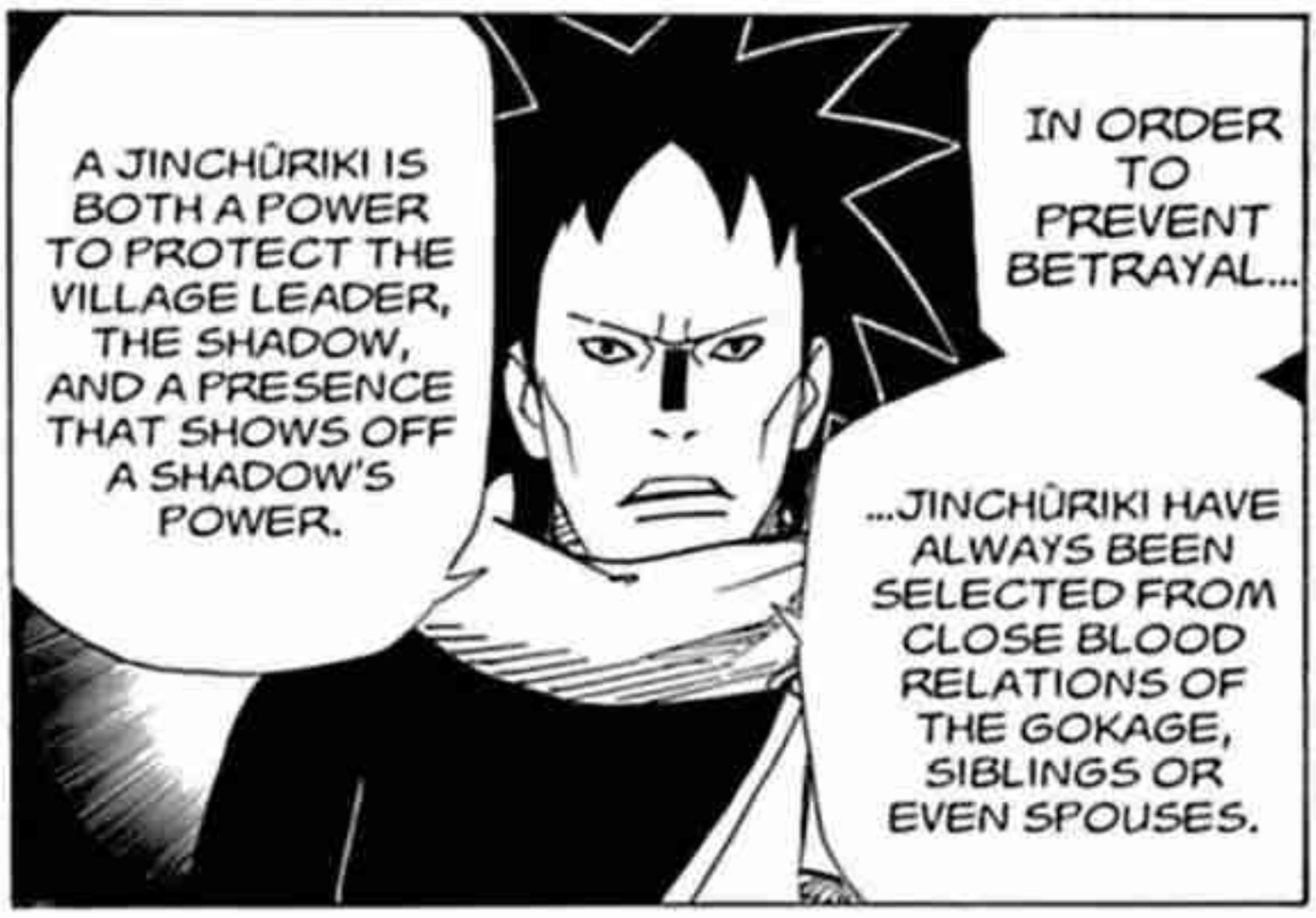

MASTER BEE WAS LONG FEARED AND RESENTED BY THE OTHER VILLAGERS...

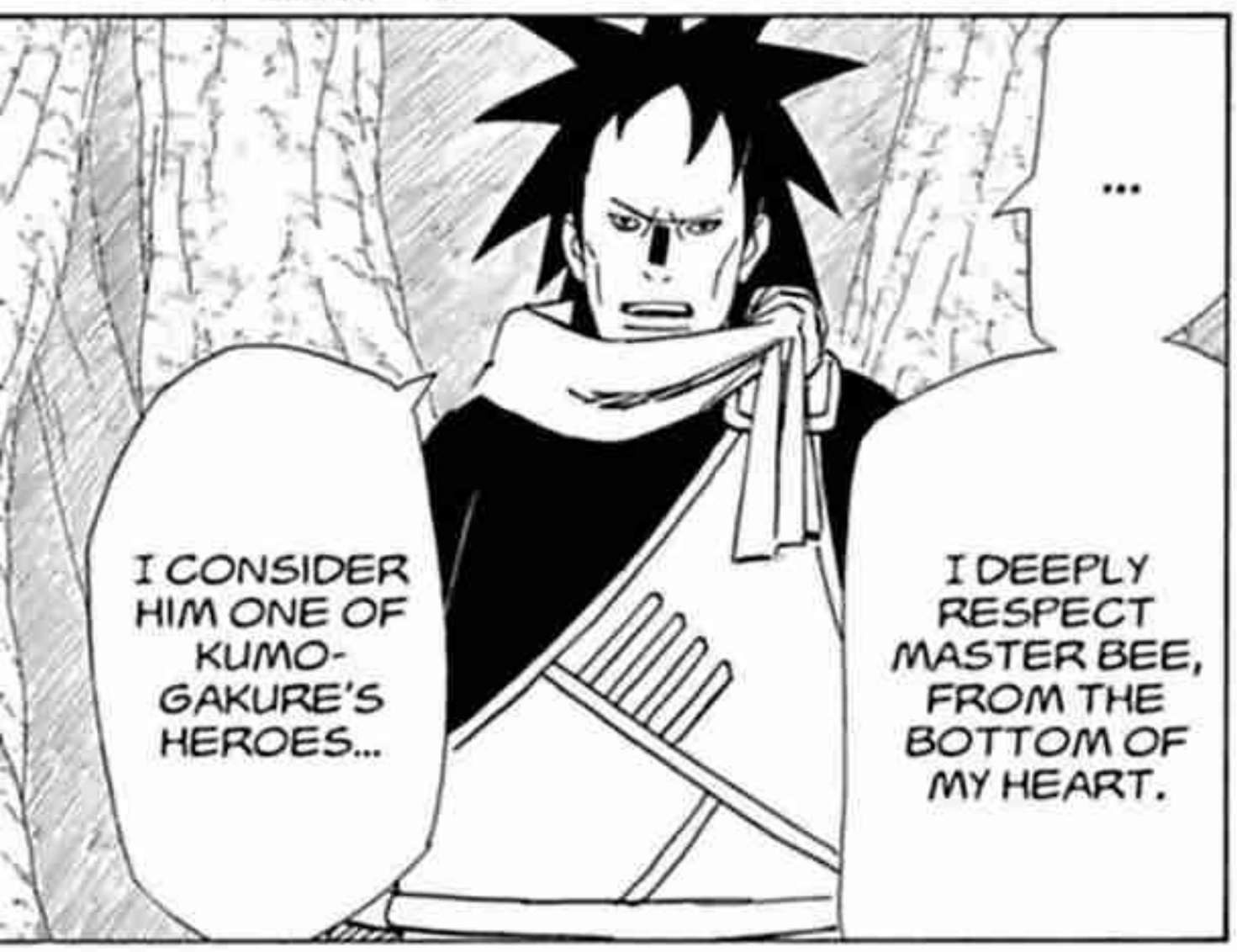
AND THE MAIN REASON WHY HE WAS ABLE TO HAVE PRIDE IN HIMSELF...
...I SUSPECT ...

IT SEEMED TO ME THAT HE DECIDED TO TAKE PRIDE IN HIMSELF AND EVEN ADDED SELF-EXPRESSION.
YO!

HE JUST CONTINUOUSLY WORKED THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM, ALWAYS CHEERFUL.
BUT MASTER BEE NEVER GOT DEPRESSED OR COMPLAINED, EVEN ONCE.
INSTEAD OF FEELING SHAME AT BEING A JINCHÛRIKI, HE TURNED IT INTO A POSITIVE...

...IS THANKS TO HIS OLDER BROTHER... LORD RAIKAGE.




I CONSIDER HIM ONE OF KUMO-GAKURE'S HEROES...
I DEEPLY RESPECT MASTER BEE, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
...

IT IS SAID THAT HE MASTERED THIS WATERFALL OF TRUTH CHALLENGE IN NO TIME.

COULD YOU ASK OCTOPOPS ON MY BEHALF, MOTOI?!
THAT'S IT!!
FOR TRAINING HINTS!!

...

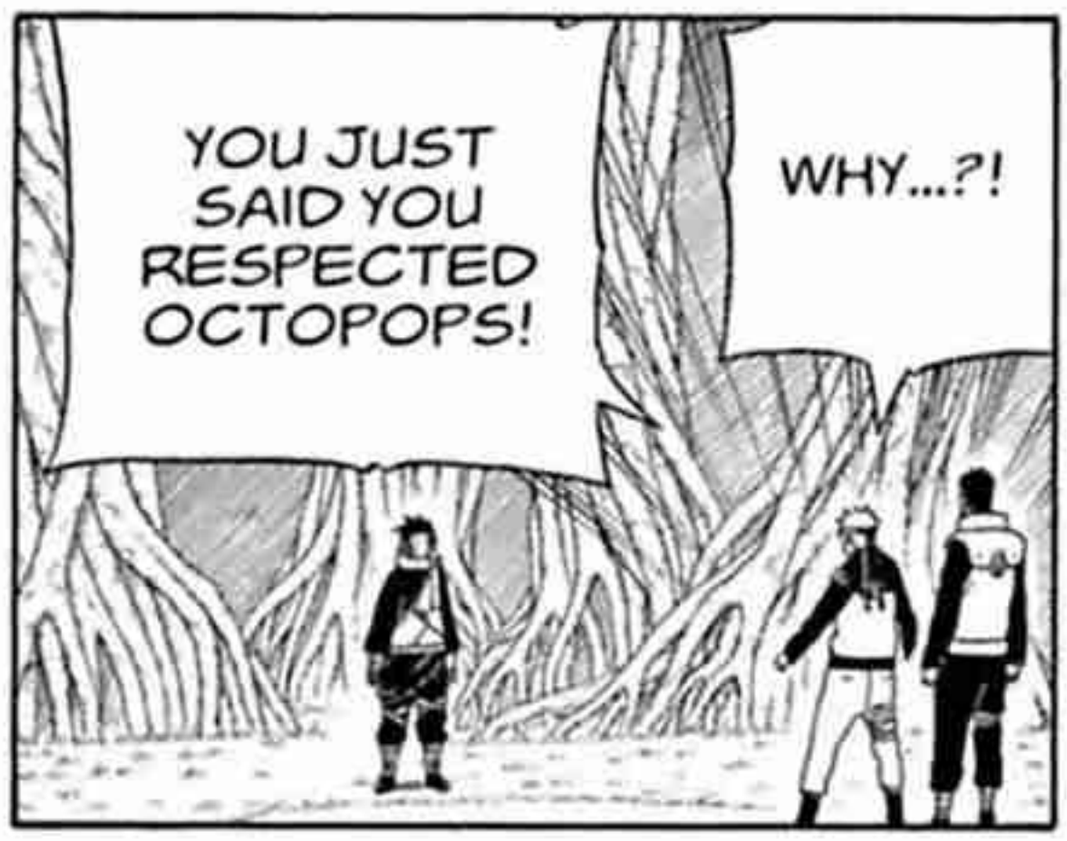
AND YOU, ALSO... YOU HAVE A PROFOUND UNDER-STANDING OF JINCHŪRIKI...
SUCH A WELL-LOVED JINCHŪRIKI... MASTER BEE IS A TRULY SPLENDID PERSON.
...WHICH IS PROBABLY WHY YOU WERE SELECTED TO BE SUPERVI-SOR...

?
?

I AM NOT WORTHY OF SUCH AN ERRAND...

WHY NOT?!
I'M AFRAID... I CAN'T...

I...ONCE TRIED TO KILL MASTER BEE.



READ THIS WAY
SO WHAT WAS IT?!
...
I'M SURE THERE'S SOME EXPLANATION.
WHAT INCIDENT...?
...I THINK I WILL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU... ABOUT THAT INCIDENT...
VERY WELL. SINCE YOU ARE A FELLOW JINCHÛRIKI ...
THIS MUST BE MY CONFESSION ...
IT ALL TOOK PLACE 30 YEARS AGO...

NARUTO

CREAAAK

THE PREVIOUS RAIKAGE, THE THIRD, AND THE OTHER ELITE CLOUD SHINOBI ALWAYS STOPPED EIGHT TALES.

BACK THEN, THE JINCHÛRIKI WAS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO COMPLETELY CONTROL EIGHT TAILS.

OF

TOO MANY TIMES, EIGHT TAILS WOULD GET LOOSE, RAMPAGE, AND DESTROY KUMO-GAKURE.

# Number 494: Killer Bee and Motoi

!
PAK
KRAK

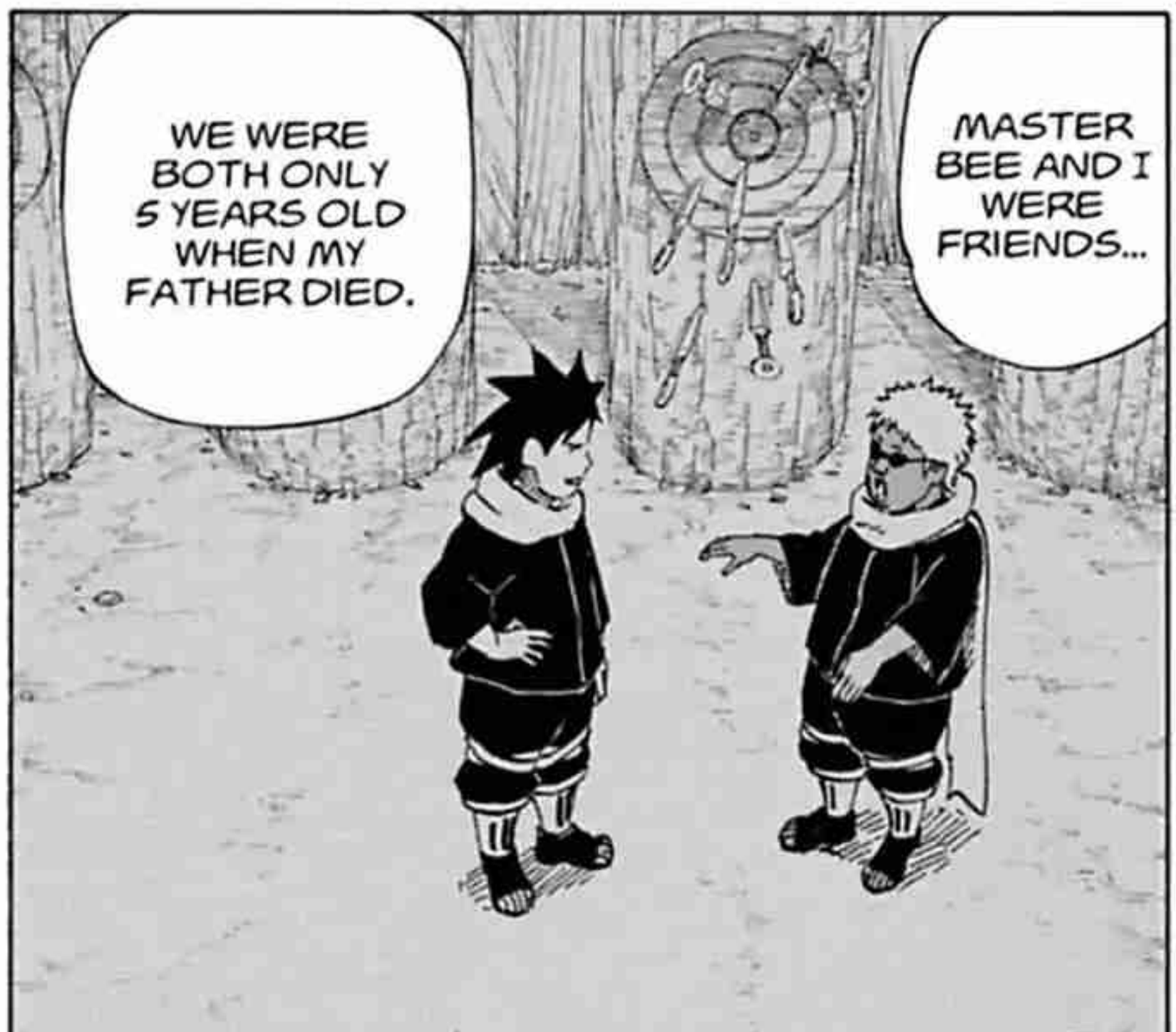
EVERY TIME THEY MANAGED TO SUBDUE HIM AND SHOVE HIM BACK INTO HIS USUAL SEALING URN...

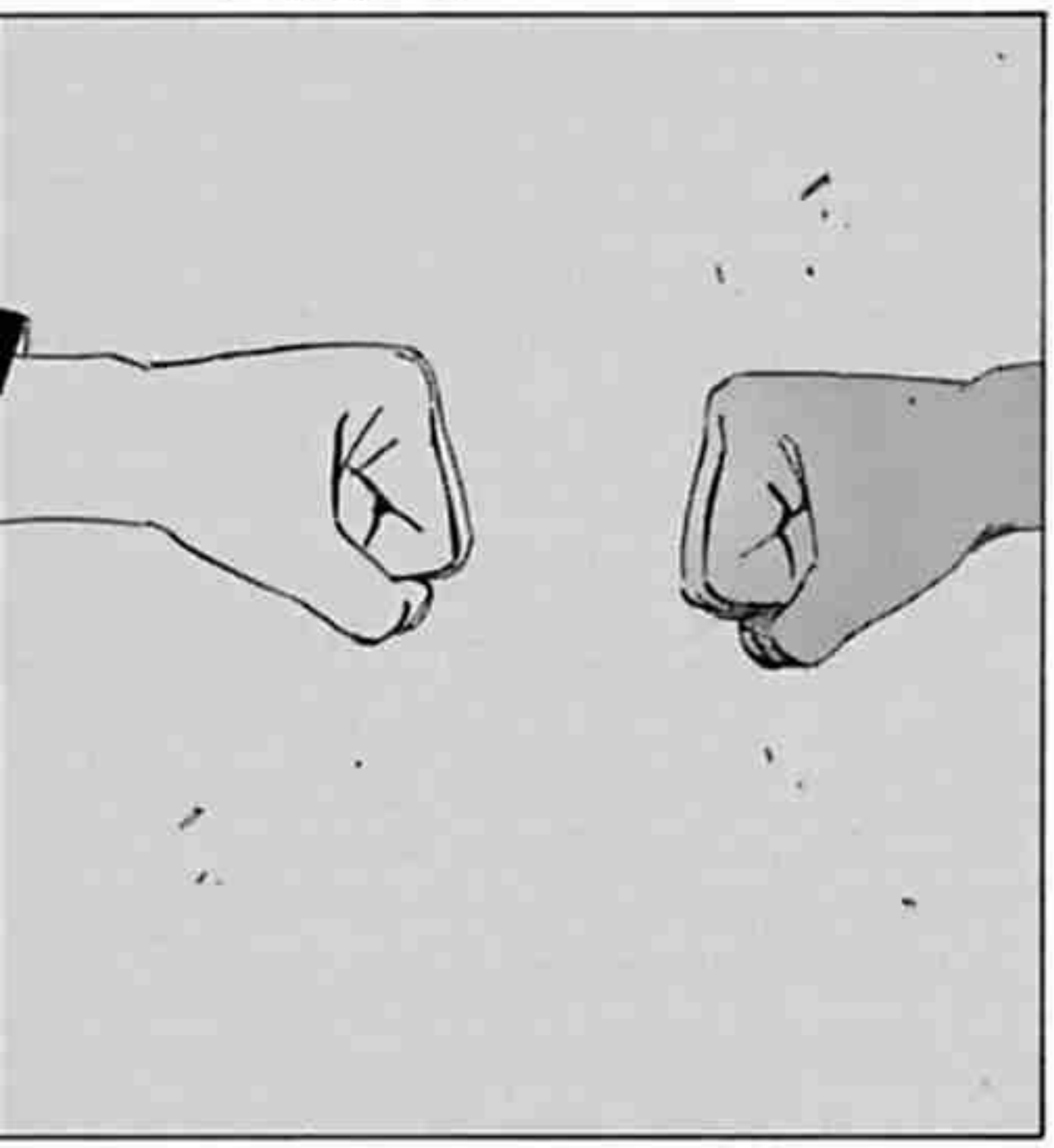
...BUT THERE WERE ALWAYS CASUALTIES.

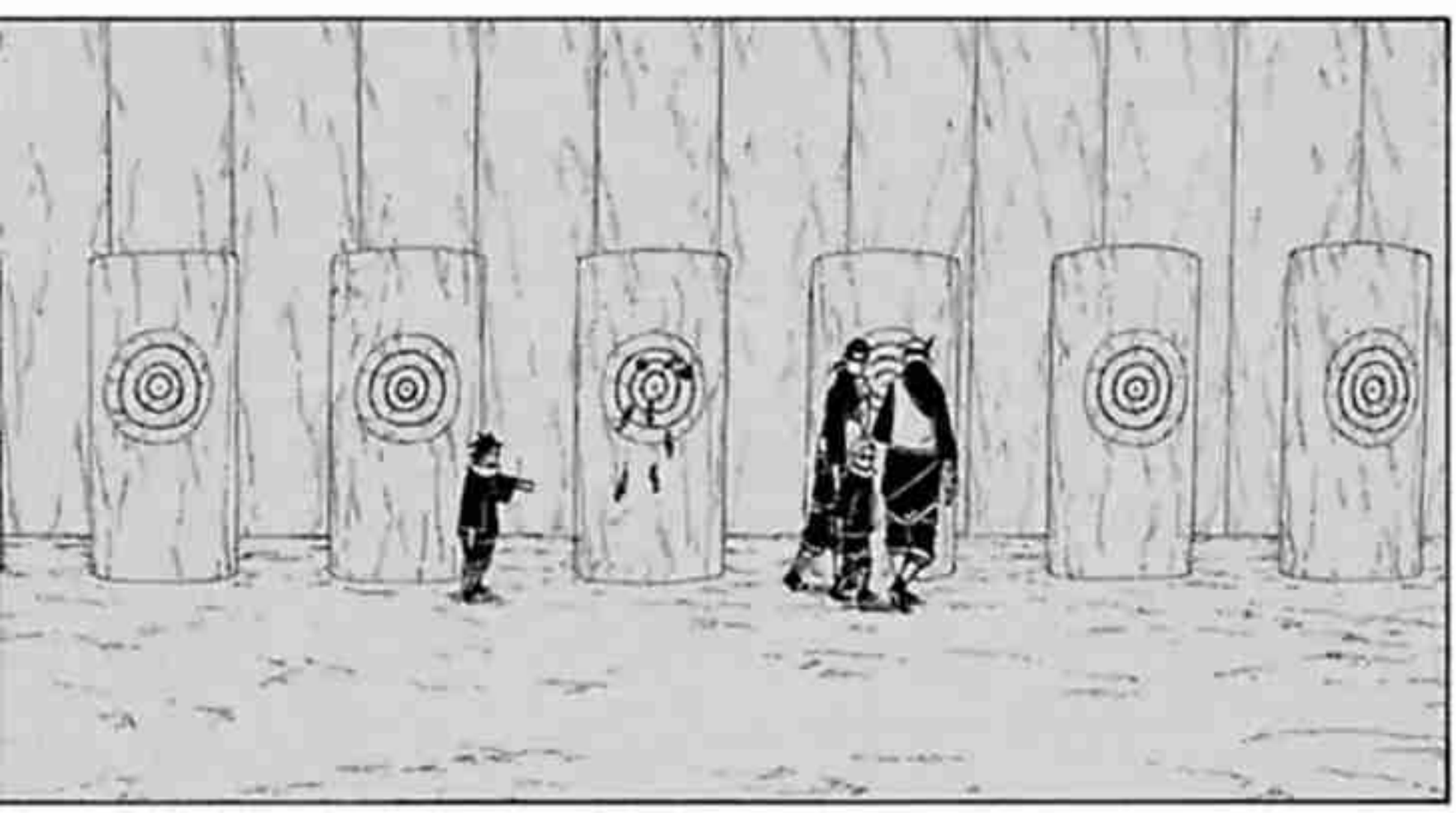
SO THE JINCHŪRIKI EXPERIMENTS WENT FORWARD.

HOWEVER, DESPITE THE COST, IT WAS NECESSARY TO POSSESS EIGHT TAILS. WE HAD TO MAINTAIN THE POWER BALANCE AGAINST OTHER NATIONS. EIGHT TAILS WORKED IN OUR FAVOR.

...WAS MY FATHER.

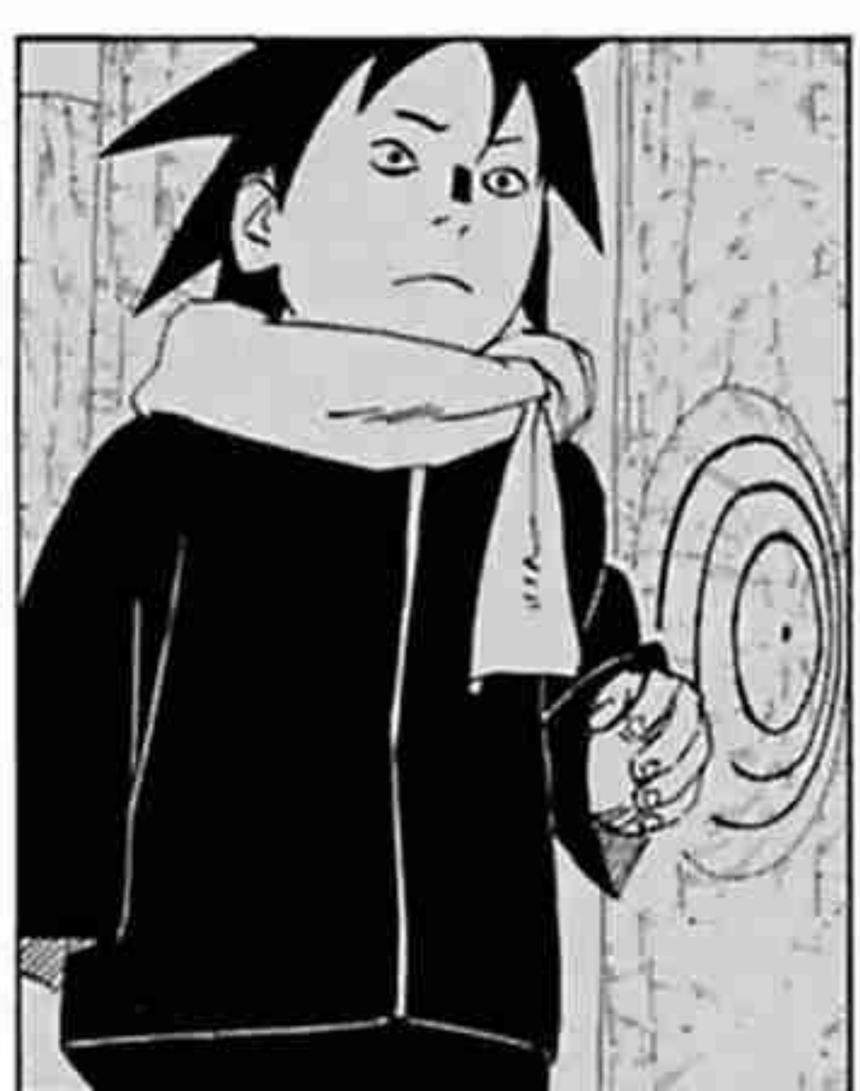


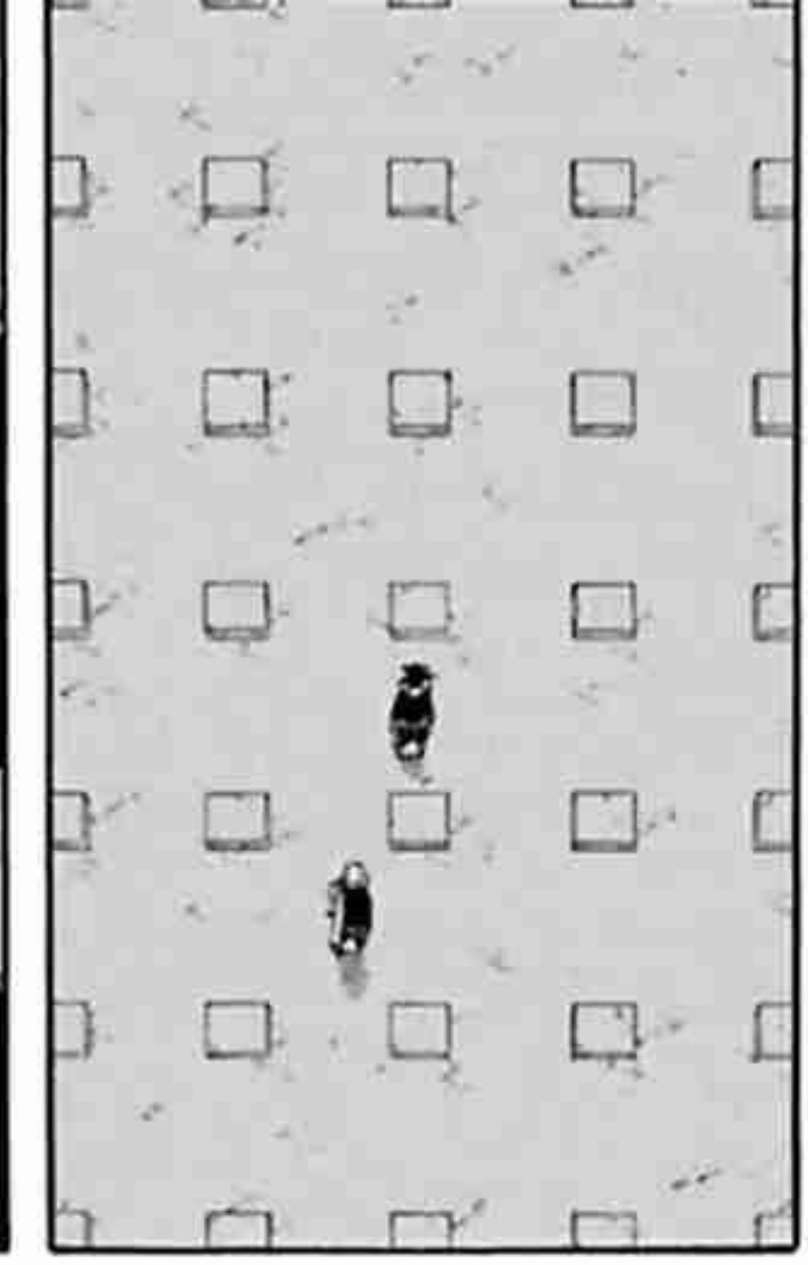




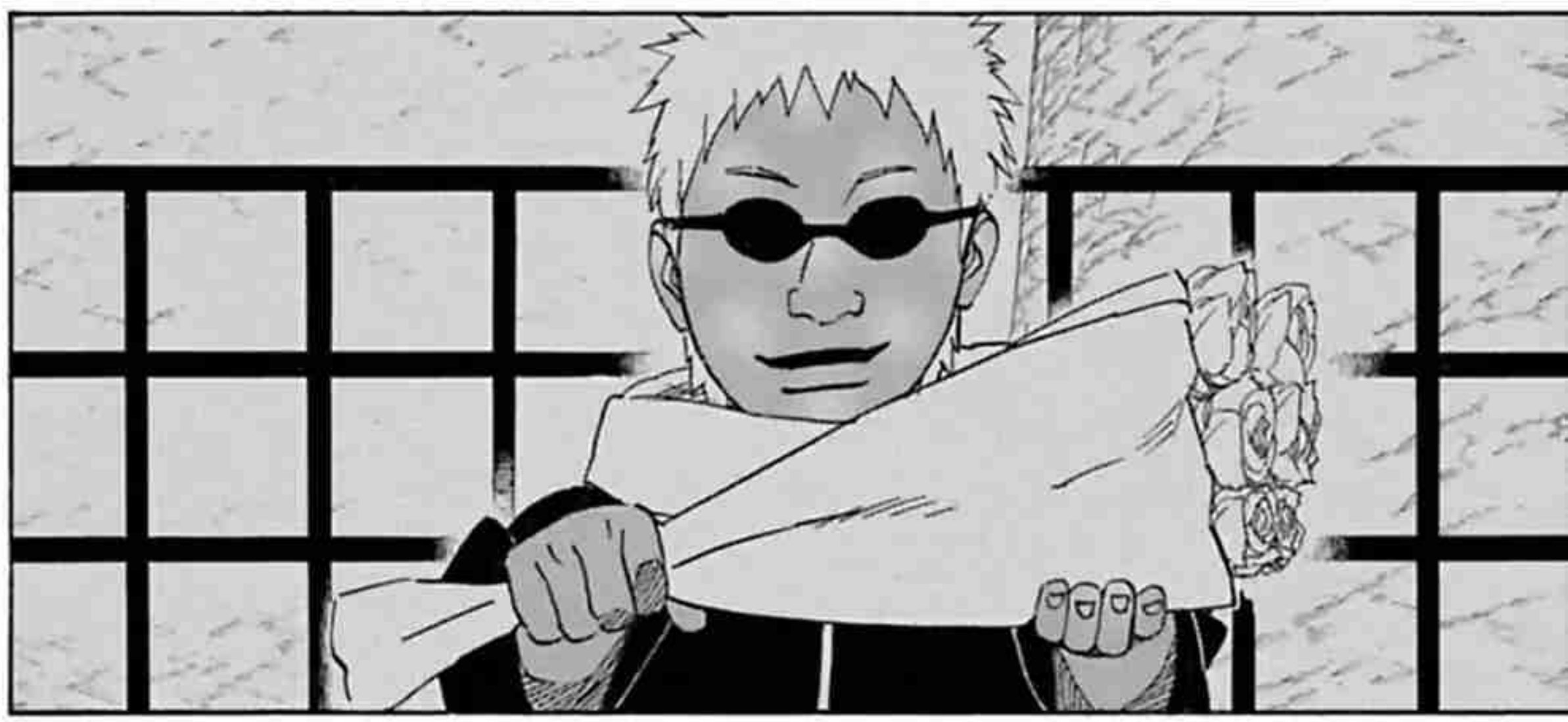
!

...DIED WHEN EIGHT TAILS WAS EXTRACTED AND SEALED AWAY.
THE JINCHÛRIKI RESPONSIBLE FOR MY FATHER'S DEATH...





THAT WAS THE PREVIOUS JINCHÛRIKI.

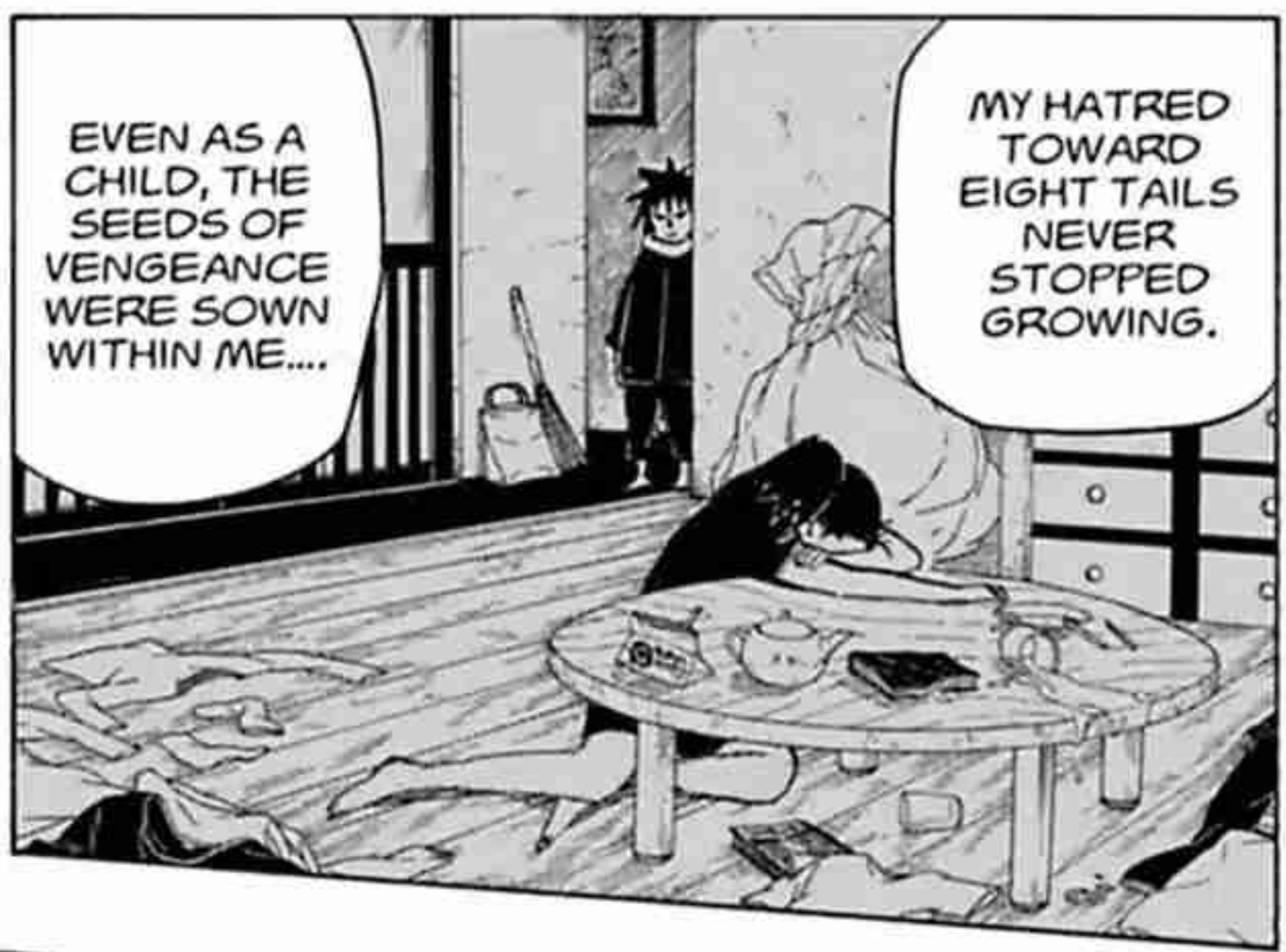


IT WAS AFTER THAT TRAGEDY THAT MASTER BEE WAS SELECTED TO BECOME JINCHÛRIKI.

I ASSUMED IT WOULD NEVER BE POSSIBLE TO CONTROL EIGHT TAILS...
...THAT THERE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MASS CASUALTIES.

...DID YOU TRY TO KILL MASTER BEE...?
THEN WHY...
...

MASTER BEE WAS ALWAYS LAUGHING.


EVEN AS A CHILD, THE SEEDS OF VENGEANCE WERE SOWN WITHIN ME....
MY HATRED TOWARD EIGHT TAILS NEVER STOPPED GROWING.

ULTIMATELY, I TRANS-FERRED MY HATRED OF EIGHT TAILS TO KILLER BEE, HIS JINCHŪRIKI.
I HATED HIM FOR NOT SEEMING TO CARE.

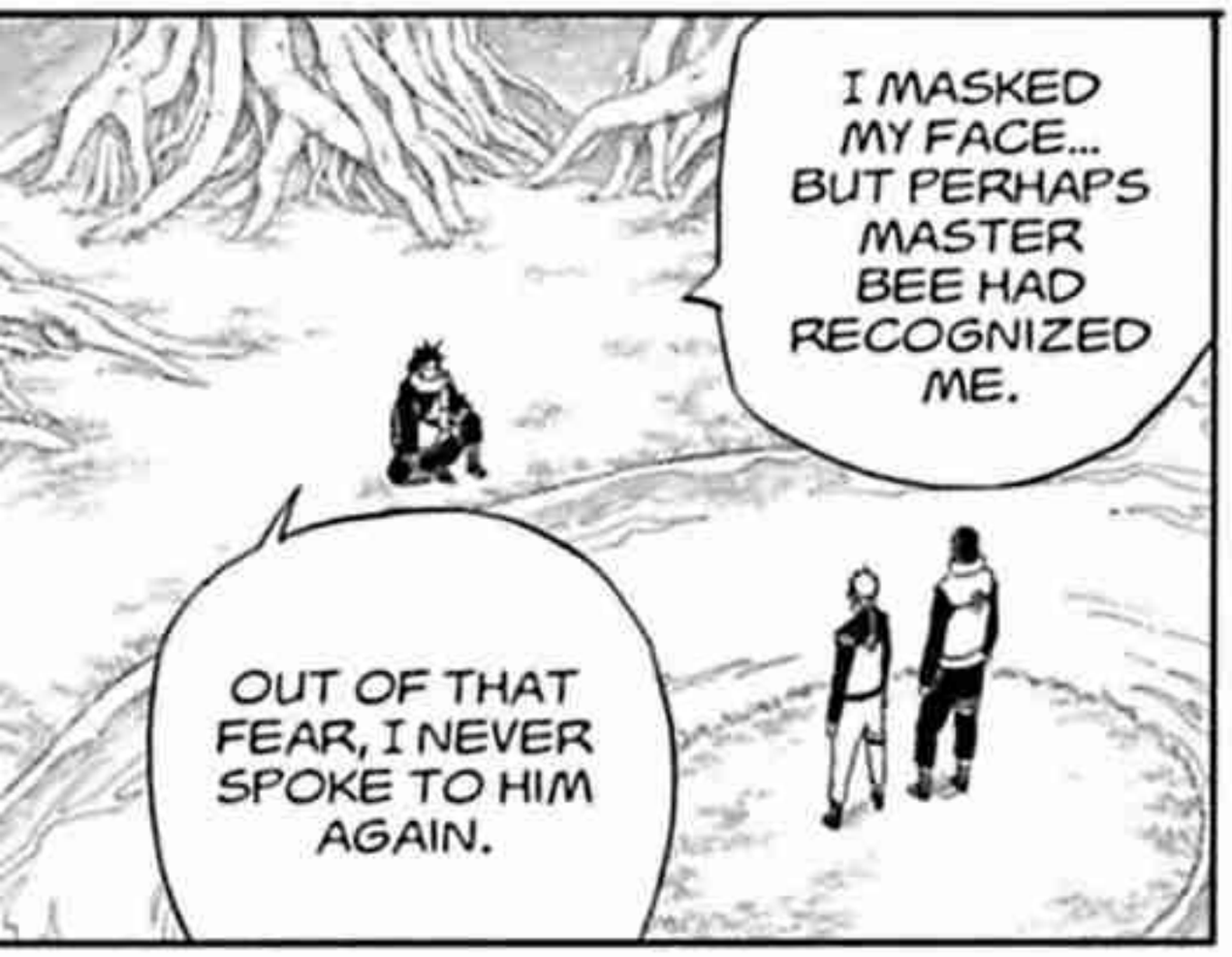
I THOUGHT IF I KILLED MASTER BEE, EIGHT TAILS WOULD ALSO DIE.

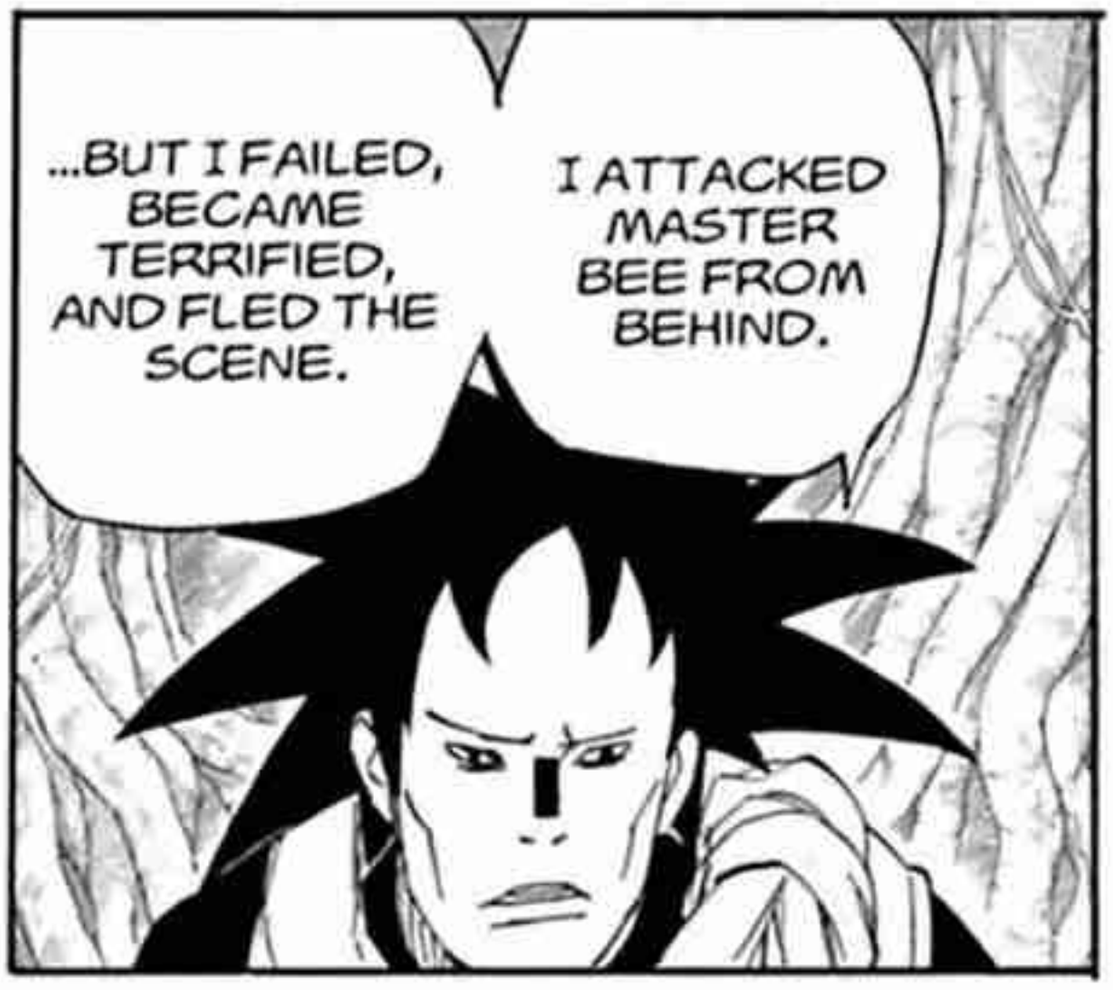
KASHINK
!!
?!
WHOOSH

?!

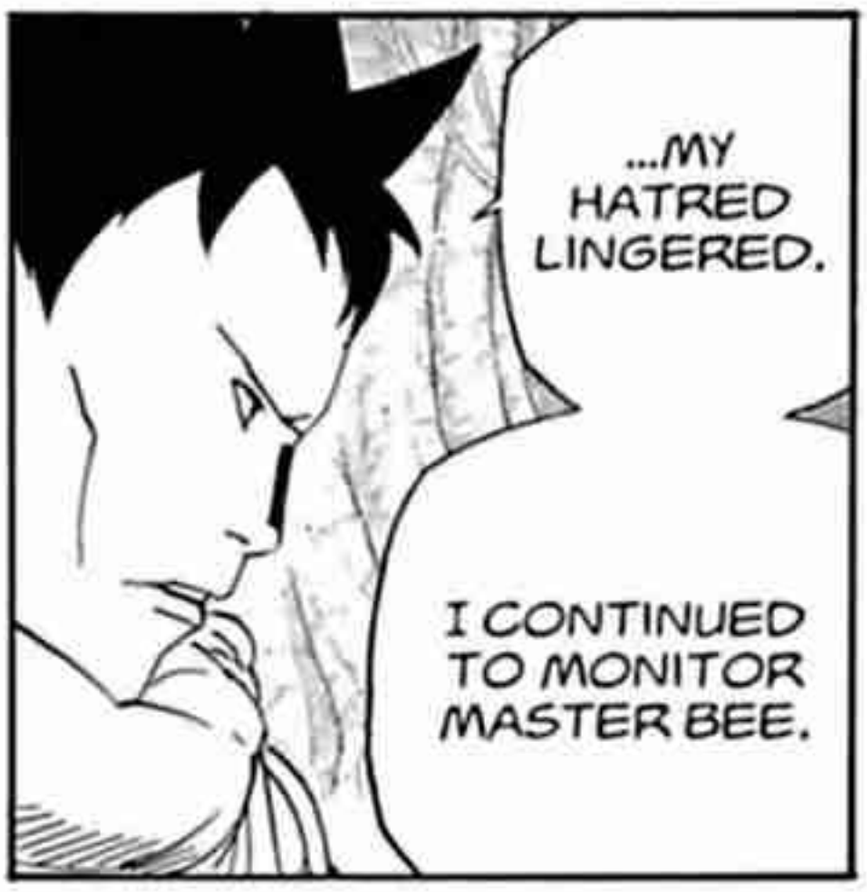
?

...!!


I MASKED MY FACE... BUT PERHAPS MASTER BEE HAD RECOGNIZED ME.
OUT OF THAT FEAR, I NEVER SPOKE TO HIM AGAIN.


...BUT I FAILED, BECAME TERRIFIED, AND FLED THE SCENE.
I ATTACKED MASTER BEE FROM BEHIND.

BUT... I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE.

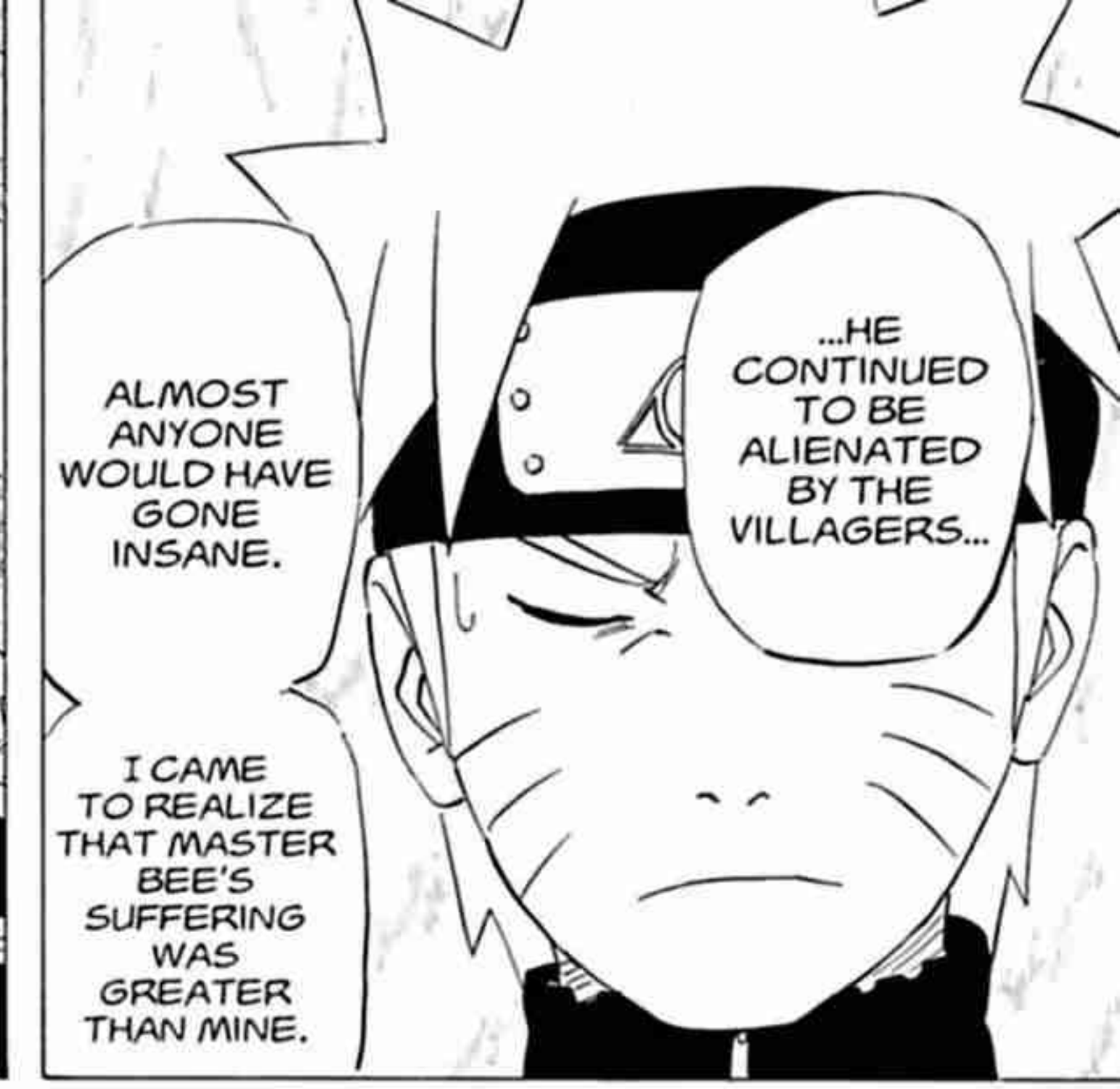

...MY HATRED LINGERED.
I CONTINUED TO MONITOR MASTER BEE.

SO HOW DID YOU THEN COME TO RESPECT MASTER BEE?
...

EVEN THOUGH HE WAS FORCED TO BECOME A JINCHÛRIKI BECAUSE OF POLITICS, AND EXISTS TO PROTECT THE VILLAGE...
THE VILLAGERS SHUNNED MASTER BEE OVER AND OVER AGAIN... OSTRACIZED HIM... FOR A LONG TIME...

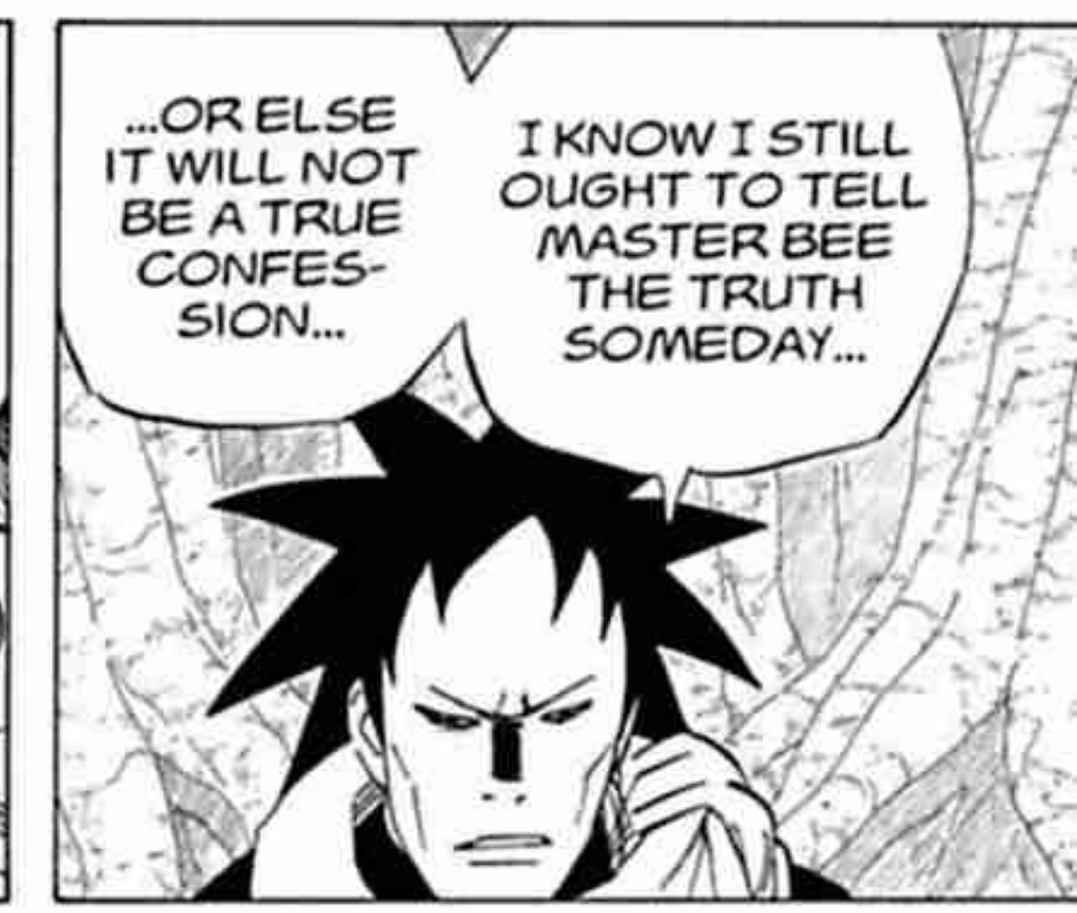
...?

I DO THINK I WOULD RATHER HAVE MASTER BEE HEAR THIS...
WHY TELL US...?
BUT I AM TELLING NARUTO BECAUSE HE IS A FELLOW JINCHÛRIKI...


ALMOST ANYONE WOULD HAVE GONE INSANE.
I CAME TO REALIZE THAT MASTER BEE'S SUFFERING WAS GREATER THAN MINE.
...HE CONTINUED TO BE ALIENATED BY THE VILLAGERS...

...

!!
HEH... HOW CONVENIENT FOR HIM...
ZOT

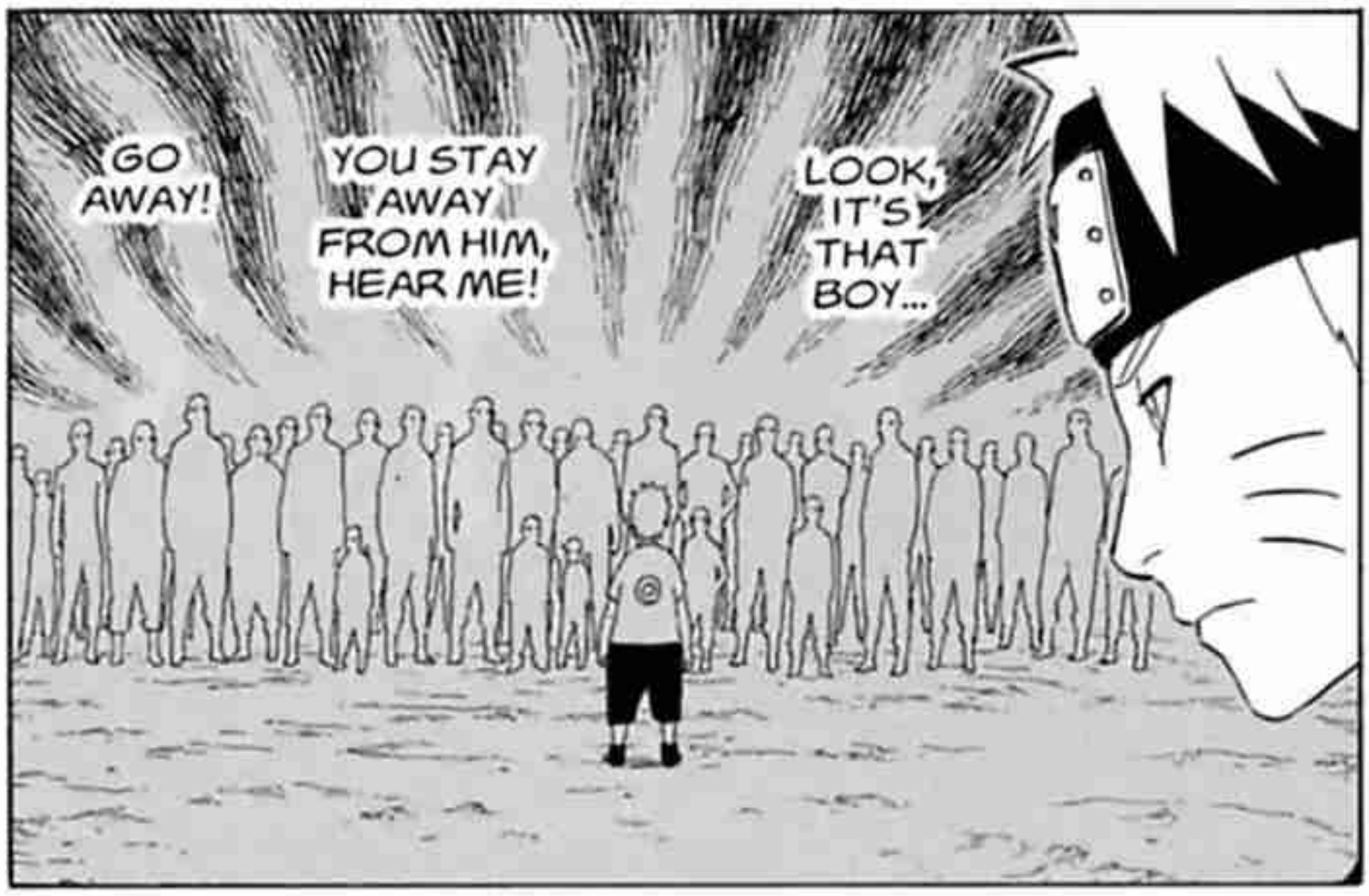

...OR ELSE IT WILL NOT BE A TRUE CONFES-SION...
I KNOW I STILL OUGHT TO TELL MASTER BEE THE TRUTH SOMEDAY...

SPLAAASH

SPLASH

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, NARUTO?
!
I WANNA BE ALONE.
SHUP SHUP

...


GO AWAY!
YOU STAY AWAY FROM HIM, HEAR ME!
LOOK, IT'S THAT BOY...

THANKS!
YOU'RE A HERO, NARUTO!
WE KNEW YOU COULD DO IT!

LORD GAARA IS A SILENT, COOL, STRONG AND HANDSOME ELITE WARRIOR...
GAARA IS KAZEKAGE. SHUT ALL YOUR MOUTHS! YOU BRATS!

SO... FOR WHAT PURPOSE DO I EXIST? WHY AM I ALIVE?
TO THEM, I AM NOW A RELIC OF THE PAST THAT THEY WISH TO ERASE AND FORGET...
MY FATHER HAS BEEN TRYING TO ASSASSINATE ME.

...

GAARA IS TRUSTED NOW TOO. HE'S KAZEKAGE. HE'S TOTALLY RESPECTED.
SOME PEOPLE REALLY TRUST OLD OCTOPOPS NOW.

I LIVE IN YOUR HEART.
I AM YOU.

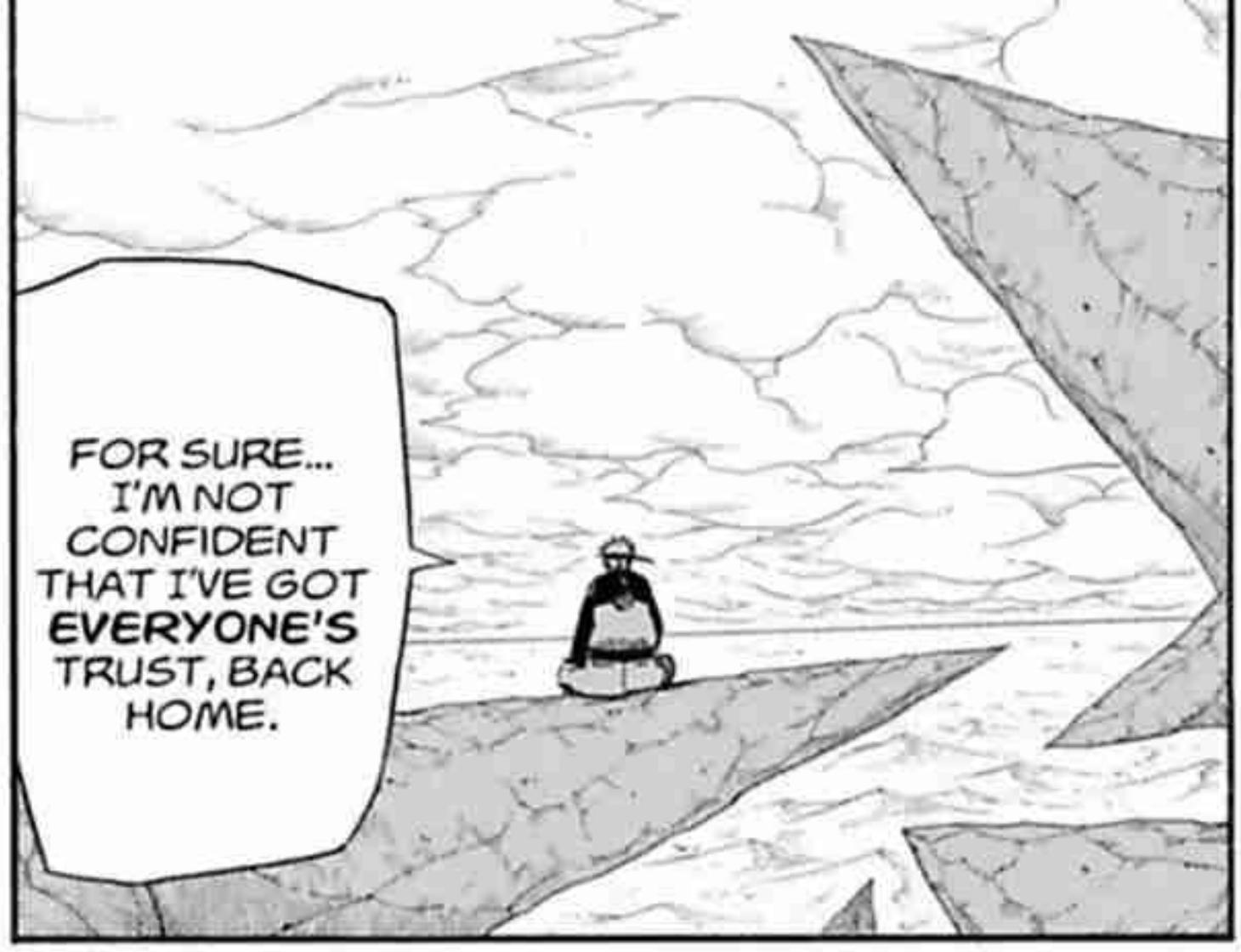
THE VILLAGERS MADE US OUTCASTS. BUT NOW...

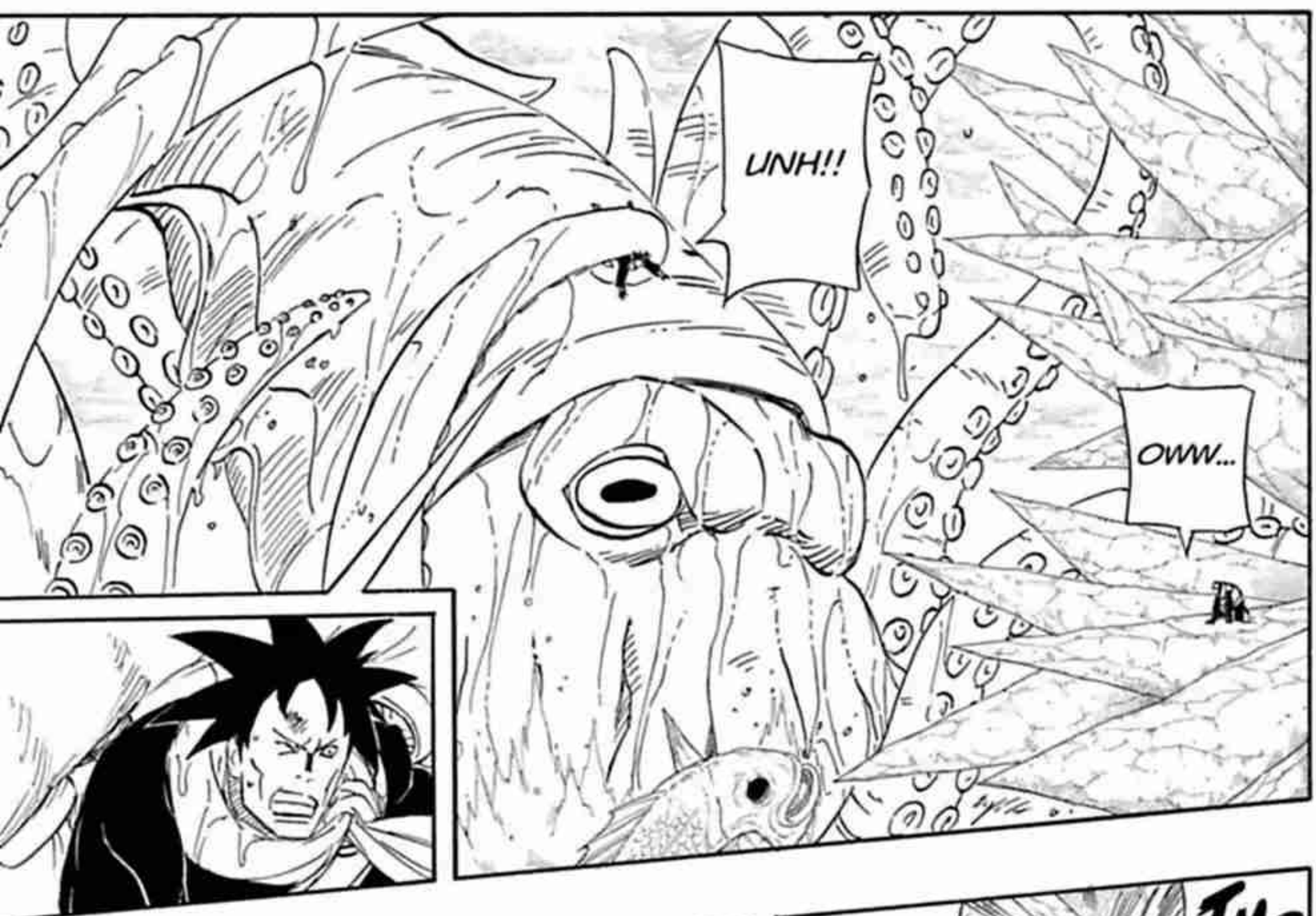
...PLUS...
AND ME... I'VE GOT MASTER IRUKA, MY CLASS-MATES...

...

BUT I GUESS SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE MY HEART...
I NEVER USED TO THINK THIS MUCH.

!
WAAH!


FOR SURE... I'M NOT CONFIDENT THAT I'VE GOT EVERYONE'S TRUST, BACK HOME.


UNH!!
OWW...

NARUTO! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!
...
NARUTO! INITIATE FORMATION C!
MOTOI?!
TMP

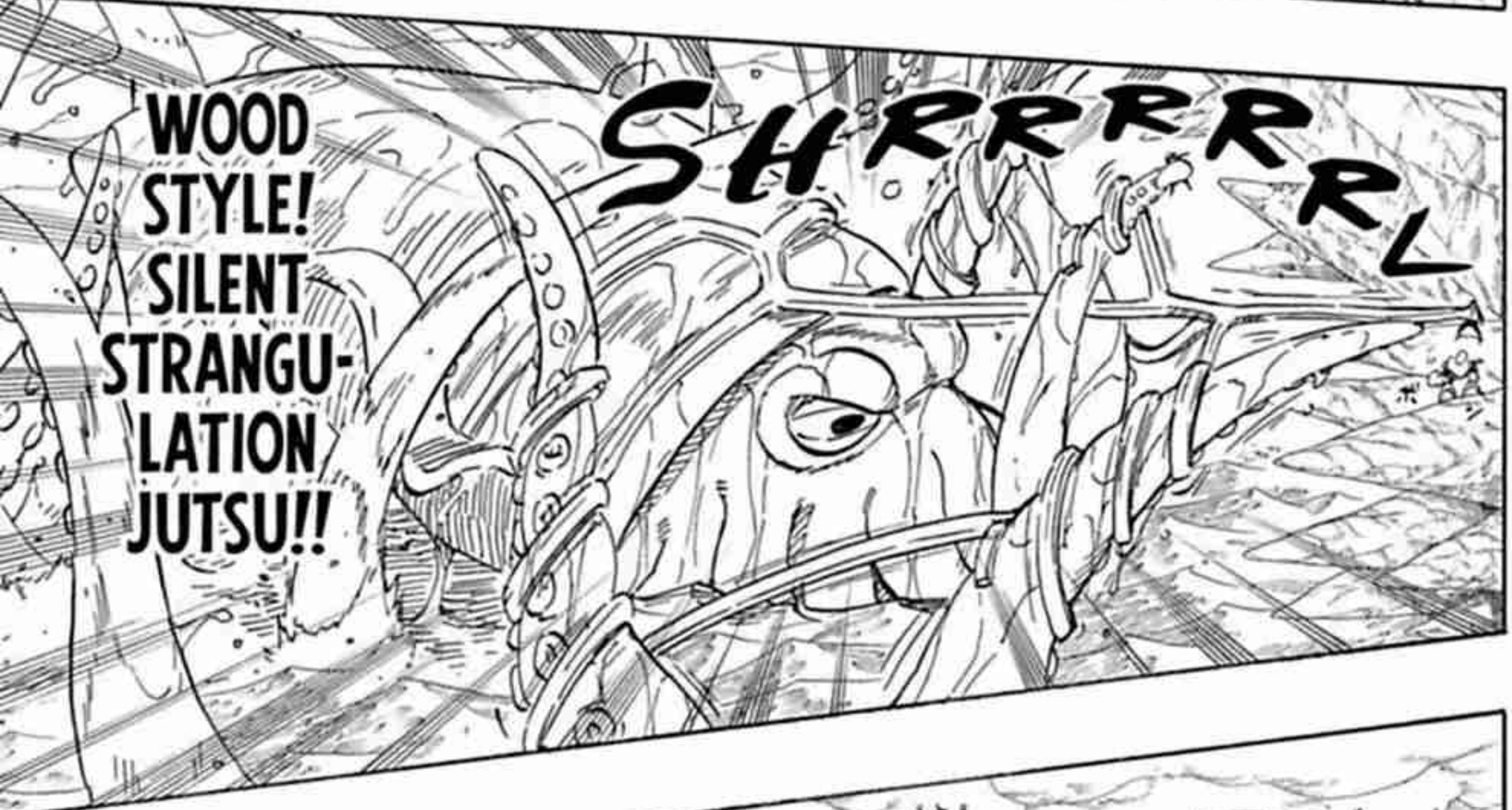
MOTOI REALLY DOES TRUST AND CARE ABOUT YOU!!

STOP IT, OCTOPOPS !!

NARUTO, FIGHT FIRST, TALK LATER! LET'S GO!!
Fwp
RIGHT!

AARGH!!
SQUEEZE

HE GOT WORRIED ABOUT YOU, AND AS WE SET OUT AFTER YOU, THE SQUID SUDDENLY ATTACKED US!
WHOA! I THOUGHT MOTOI HAD CONFESSED TO OCTOPOPS, AND HE GOT MAD...


WOOD STYLE! SILENT STRANGU-LATION JUTSU!!
SHRRRRRL

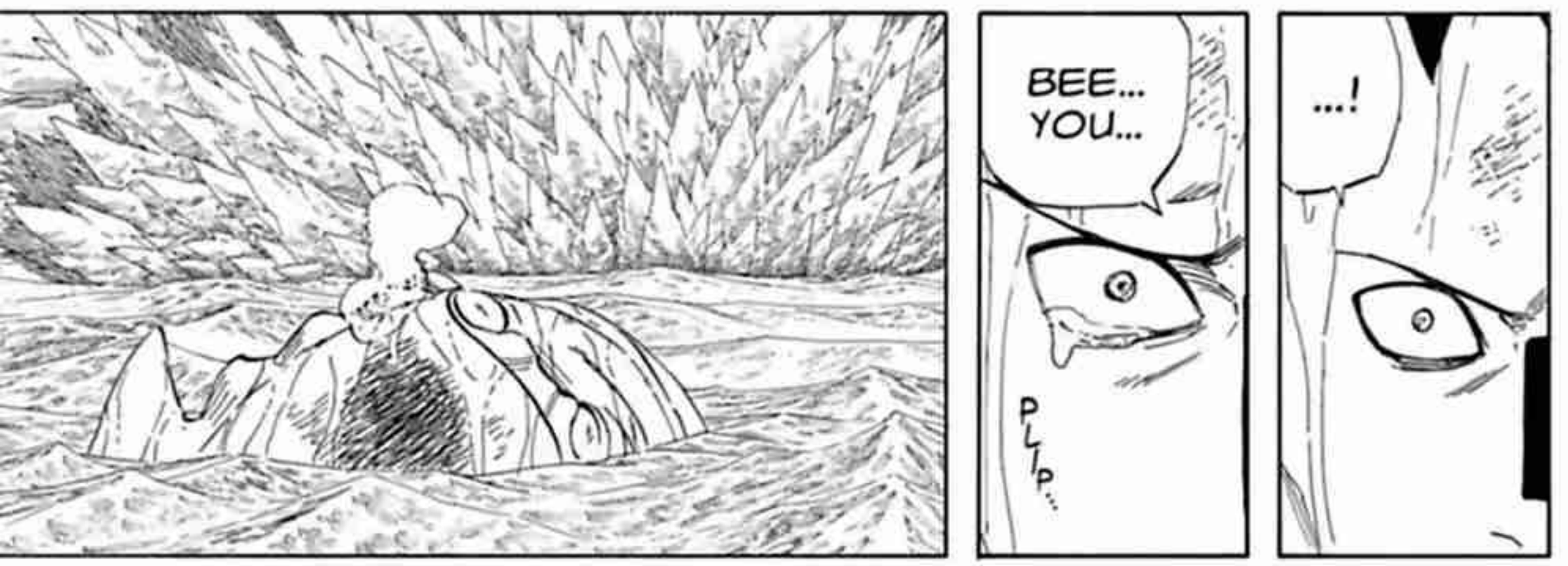
MOTOI! WE'RE COMING!!
WHEEEE

ME 'N EIGHT TAILS RETAKE DA *STAGE*!! KNOCKIN' DA BEAT-UP SQUID RIGHT OFF DA *PAGE*!!

SPLAT

OH YEAH, YOU DID?
FSH

THAT I HAD TRIED... TO KILL YOU...?!
AND YET...
MASTER BEE... YOU KNEW, DIDN'T YOU...?
SPLAASH
...


BEE... YOU...
PLIP...
...!

TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOLUME 53!